

# Xylazine

## What You Need to Know to Stay Safe & Save Lives

### WHAT IS XYLAZINE?

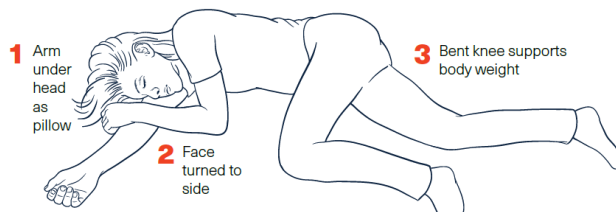
- A veterinary tranquilizer used for sedation or anesthesia of horses, cattle, and large animals.
- Not approved for human use due to severe central nervous system (CNS) depressant effects.
- Recently detected in the illicit or unregulated drug supply, usually with fentanyl. Heroin or dope may be cut with both xylazine and fentanyl, causing an even greater risk of overdose and unintentional death.
- Not detectable by taste, smell, or fentanyl test strips.

### WHAT DOES XYLAZINE DO?

- Can cause extreme drowsiness and sedation immediately after injecting or snorting.
- May stop breathing, which can lead to death.
- Can increase risk of blood clots, skin breakdown, and muscle or nerve damage due to severe sedation and impaired ability to move for hours.
- May cause low blood pressure and/or heart rate.
- With repeated use, may lead to large, severe, and difficult to heal skin wounds, which can in turn lead to dead tissue (necrosis).

### XYLAZINE OVERDOSE RESPONSE

1. Check the the person's pulse and breathing.
2. Administer naloxone (NARCAN®) if the person is not breathing - the naloxone will not have any effect on the xylazine, but will reverse an opioid overdose if the person also used fentanyl, heroin, or other opioids.
3. [OPTIONAL during COVID-19] If you are trained and feel comfortable doing so, provide recovery breathing until the person is breathing on their own.
4. Place the person in the recovery position (rolled on their side, hand supporting their head, knee bent to stop the body from rolling onto the stomach).



5. If the person is having trouble moving due to extreme sedation, try and roll them to the opposite side every 2 hours, bend joints, gently massage/rub areas that are reddish, and keep skin as clean as possible.
6. Once the person wakes up, do some gentle walking or other exercise to help prevent blood clots.
7. If the person begins to experience sudden shortness of breath, chest pain, or discomfort, or has redness, swelling, pain, and warmth in a leg or foot - **call 9-1-1 immediately, this could be a deep vein blood clot.**

### OTHER RESOURCES

#### NALOXONE

- Naloxone can be obtained for free from:
- The Chicago Recovery Alliance (CRA) - call 312-953-3797 or visit [www.anypositivechange.org/van-timetable](http://www.anypositivechange.org/van-timetable) for a schedule.
- Live4Lali - text or call 224-297-4393 or complete the order form for supplies by mail: <https://bit.ly/l4supplies>.
- Other Drug Overdose Prevention Programs (DOPP) near you - visit <https://bit.ly/DOPPnaloxone>.
- A short video on how to use naloxone can be found on the Cook County Department of Public Health website: <https://bit.ly/NLXvideo>.

#### DRUG CHECKING & FENTANYL TEST STRIPS

- CRA offers comprehensive drug checking services at their Chicago location (3110 W Taylor St) on Mondays from 5-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m., and Saturdays 12-2 p.m. Contact [taylor@anypositivechange.org](mailto:taylor@anypositivechange.org) for more information.
- Fentanyl Test Strips are provided for free by both CRA and Live4Lali using the contact information above.

#### WOUND CARE

- NextDistro provides information on caring for abscesses and injection-related complications: <https://nextdistro.org/launchresources>.

#### RECOVERY

- The Illinois Helpline for Opioids & Other Substances can provide treatment and recovery options near you - call 1-833-234-6343 or text "HELP" to 833234.