

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Opioids come in all shapes, colours, textures, and sizes, and are available by prescription, or illegally “on the street.”



By prescription

- Opioids include legal pain medications that are prescribed by a doctor— medications like oxycodone (OxyContin™, OxyNeo™), hydromorphone (Dilaudid™), hydrocodone (Vicodin™), and morphine. Opioids can also be prescribed to treat opioid dependence and addiction (methadone, buprenorphine).

Illegally

- Opioids are also imported, produced, and sold illegally in Canada, and made to look like opioid medication. These include heroin, carfentanil, fentanyl, or fentanyl-related substances (analogues) and other powdered opioids that are pressed into pills.

COMMON GENERIC, TRADE AND STREET NAMES FOR OPIOIDS^{viii}

GENERIC NAME	TRADE NAME (examples)	STREET NAMES
Buprenorphine	BuTrans	Bupe, bute
Buprenorphine-naloxone	Suboxone	Subby, bupe, sobos
Codeine	Tylenol [®] 2,3,4 (codeine + acetaminophen)	Cody, captain cody, T1, T2, T3, T4
Fentanyl	Abstral [®] , Duragesic [®] , Onsolis	Patch, sticky, sticker, nerps, beans
Hydrocodone	Tussionex [®] , Vicoprofen [®]	Hydro, vike
Hydromorphone	Dilaudid	Juice, dillies, dust
Meperidine	Demerol	Demmies
Methadone	Methadose [®] , Metadol [®]	Meth, drink, done
Morphine	Doloral [®] , Statex [®] , M.O.S.	M, morph, red rockets
Oxycodone	OxyNEO [®] , Percocet [®] , Oxycocet [®] , Percodan	Oxy, hillbilly heroin, percs
Pentazocine	Talwin	Ts
Tapentadol	Nucynta	Unknown
Tramadol	Ultram [®] Tramacet [®] Tridural [®] , Durela	Chill pills, ultra

What is happening in the body?

- When opioids are consumed, the opioid molecules “bind” to and activate receptors located at the ends of nerves, which are located all over your body – along your spine, in your brain, and even in your digestive system. These receptors are associated with feelings of extreme well-being (or euphoria), but also will slowing down your breathing.

- If your body can handle the dose, it will eliminate the drug over time. But in overdose, the opioid molecules overwhelm the receptors, prevent the body from getting rid of the drug, and slow breathing down, or stop it altogether.

^v Note: OxyContin[®] is no longer marketed in Canada and has been replaced by OxyNEO[®]. Health Canada has approved generic controlled-release oxycodone. It has also approved oxymorphone (Opana[®]) but this is currently not marketed.

WHAT IS FENTANYL?

Illegal drugs often contain fillers like baking soda, sugar, and other powders. Cocaine, crack, MDMA (ecstasy) and meth, may also be “cut” with fentanyl.



If they are cut with fentanyl, or a fentanyl-related substance, even the tiniest amounts are life threatening. **Two grains of fentanyl powder – the equivalent size of two grains of salt – is enough to cause an overdose.**



Fentanyl is odourless, colourless, and tasteless – making it impossible to tell whether or not – or how much – fentanyl is in an illegal drug.



“Street” fentanyl is almost always less pure than the pharmaceutical and has unpredictable effects on the body.

Accidentally getting powdered fentanyl on your clothes and hands is very unlikely to harm you, unless it comes in contact with mucous membrane, such as your eyes, nose or mouth.

But, if you do come into contact with fentanyl or fentanyl analogues (carfentanil, sufentanil):

- Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Wash your hands and clothes right away.
- Don't use hand sanitizer to clean fentanyl off, as this may increase absorption.
- Use the non-latex gloves found in First Aid Kits and Naloxone Kits.

KNOW THE SIGNS OF AN OVERDOSE

Whether using a drug recreationally at a party, taking a prescription ordered by a doctor, or injecting drugs daily, there is always a risk. **Anyone can experience an overdose.**

After using, are you or another person:

- Vomiting?
- Having seizures?
- Experiencing a loss of coordination?

If someone is slumped over, unconscious and non-responsive, check to see if they have:



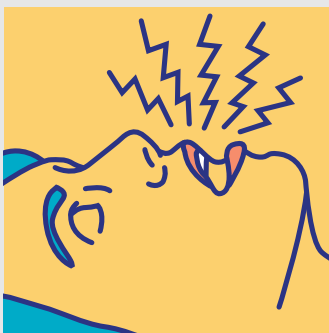
Constricted (pinpoint) pupils



Shallow or irregular breathing or no breathing at all



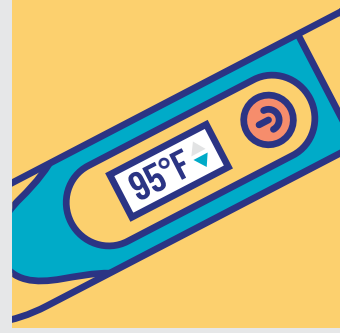
Slowed heart rate or absence of a pulse



Choking or gurgling sounds



Purple, blue, or ashen fingernails and lips



Low body temperature