

NEW SUBSTANCE IN HALTON HILLS LINKED TO FATAL OVERDOSE

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Halton Police have been made aware of a novel substance after a fatal overdose in Halton Region.

Police said the substance is etizolam, a synthetically manufactured benzodiazepine derivative similar to Xanax, but far more potent. When combined with opioids, etizolam has contributed to an increasing number of overdoses in the province.

Halton Police said this substance is different from one seized earlier in the week. Police said naloxone, a drug that can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose, will not reverse the effects of etizolam.

In the event of an overdose, police encourage the use of naloxone as it can be difficult to know what drugs are causing an overdose.

Police say it's important for residents to know the signs of an overdose.

These include:

- Difficulty walking, talking, or staying awake



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Naloxone kits

- Slow, weak or no breathing
- Very small pupils
- Cold and clammy skin
- Dizziness and confusion
- Extreme drowsiness
- Unusual gurgling or snoring sounds
- Blue lips or nails
- Inability to wake up, even when shaken.

The drug has not been approved by Health Canada for medical use.

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Any questions, please contact

**Pete Wanner (905) 877-0776 or
Jamie Chouinard (905) 877-7803**

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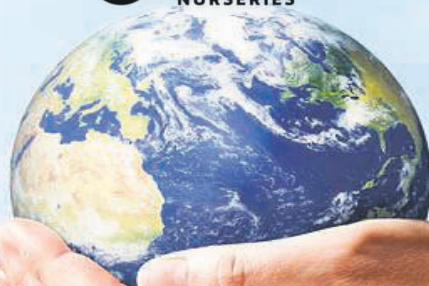


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