



PRP ADVISORY

Presence of High Potency Synthetic Opioid *N*-Pyrrolidino Etonitazene found in recent Saskatoon police seizures

November 18, 2021

IMPORTANT

CPSA has been notified by Health Canada's Drug Analysis Service that a **high potency synthetic opioid**, known as **N-Pyrrolidino Etonitazene** (2-(4-ethoxybenzyl)-5-nitro-1-(2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl) ethyl)-1H-benzo[d]imidazole) which is controlled under the Controlled Drug and Substances Act, was present in an **orange powder/and or grainy substance**. The substance was received in Health Canada laboratory on November 2, 2021 and is the **first detection** of a substance of concern in the Saskatoon area. This substance is of concern with the following criteria:

- This substance is newly encountered in the community and is known to be associated with overdoses and deaths.
- This substance may be presented as a new form that individuals may be unaware they are consuming.
- The substance may also represent a threat to anyone handling it without taking the appropriate health and safety precautions.

Classified as a benzimidazole, *N*-Pyrrolidino Etonitazene is a highly potent synthetic opioid which is **10-20 times more potent than fentanyl**. Etonitazene produces effects similar to other opioids including euphoria, sedation, and respiratory depression. There is a significant risk of overdose due to its potency which may require greater than normal doses of naloxone in the event of an overdose.

Currently, it is unknown if *N*-Pyrrolidino Etonitazene is circulating in Saskatchewan outside of the Saskatoon area but there have been reports in other provinces.

A similar alert was reported in Toronto on May 6, 2021:

https://drugchecking.cdpe.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2021/05/2021-05-05_Etonitazene-alert.pdf

Additional information:

https://www.npsdiscovery.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Public-Alert_N-Pyrrolidino-Etonitazene_NPS-Discovery_061721.pdf

<https://health-infobase.canada.ca/drug-analysis-service/analyzed-drug-report.html?wbdisable=true>

https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/event-presentations/2021/webinar-risk-novel-synthetic-opioids.pdf?sc_lang=en

QUESTIONS:

For more information, write to the **Prescription Review Program** at prp@cps.sk.ca or call 1-306-244-7355.