

# DRUG WARNING

## Update on harmful drugs in fake alprazolam (benzodiazepine)

### Know the risks

- Taking non-prescribed 'alprazolam' can cause serious harm. The risk of harm is higher if you:
  - Take a counterfeit product
  - Take a higher dose
  - Mix different sedative drugs. Alcohol, benzos and opioids are very dangerous to combine.
  - Use drugs when you are alone
- The tablets have variable appearance and can look like a variety of local or overseas alprazolam 2mg brands, such as Kalma, Xanax, Mylan, Sandoz. Products not purchased at pharmacies are high risk of being counterfeit.
- Counterfeit alprazolam is often poorly manufactured, and the ingredients and amounts can vary substantially, even within the same batch.
- Testing of counterfeit alprazolam has shown that most counterfeit tablets do not contain alprazolam, instead they contain unregistered, illicit benzodiazepines and other drugs (e.g. stimulants), which can be more harmful.
- Counterfeit benzos have been associated with serious harm and death.

### Effects to look out for

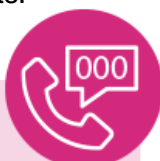
- Difficulty speaking or walking, drowsiness, loss of consciousness, slow breathing/snoring and skin turning blue.
- Be on the lookout for unexpected effects.

### Getting help

If you see the warning signs of overdose:

Seek help immediately from your nearest emergency department or call **Triple Zero (000)**.

Start **CPR** if someone is not breathing.



Counterfeit alprazolam in NSW rarely contains alprazolam. These products contain other drugs (mostly unregistered benzodiazepines) in variable combinations and dosages.



Photos of some of the counterfeit alprazolam products seen in NSW

### Support and advice

For free and confidential advice:

- Call [Alcohol and Drug Information Service](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/public-service/) (ADIS) on 1800 250 015 at any time 24/7. Start a [Web Chat](#) with an ADIS counsellor Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm.
- Call [NUAA](https://www.nuaa.org.au/) on 1800 644 413 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) to speak to a peer or visit [NUAA/DanceWize NSW](https://www.nuaa.org.au/dancewize-nsw/) for a factsheet on fake benzos.
- Call the [Poisons Information Centre](https://www.poisonsinformationcentre.com.au/) on 13 11 26 for advice on adverse effects from drugs.
- Visit [Your Room](#) for information on benzos.



<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/public-drug-alerts/Pages/default.aspx>

