

DRUG WARNING

A white tablet containing a nitazene (protonitazene) has caused severe opioid overdose in Sydney

A severe opioid overdose has occurred after taking a white tablet.

The tablet was described as containing LSD or magic mushroom.

Blood tests detected protonitazene, a potent synthetic opioid.

Effects to look out for

- Pinpoint pupils, drowsiness, loss of consciousness, slow breathing/snoring or skin turning blue/grey.
- If you or others experience these symptoms, **get help immediately**.

Getting help

If you or your friends see the warning signs of overdose:

Seek help immediately from your nearest emergency department or call **Triple Zero (000)**. You won't get into trouble for seeking medical care.

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

Use naloxone if you have it. Call '000' even if naloxone has been given.



Support and advice

For free and confidential advice:

- Call [Alcohol and Drug Information 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](#) on 1800 644 413 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) to speak to a peer or visit [NUAA](#) for a range of resources.
- Call the [NSW Poisons Information Centre](#) on 13 11 26 for information on adverse effects from drugs.
- Visit [Your Room](#) for fact sheets and other resources.



Know the risks

- Nitazenes, such as protonitazene, are synthetic opioids that are stronger and may be longer acting than many other opioids. They are up to 500 times more potent than heroin.
- Nitazenes are dangerous and vary in effect – some nitazenes are so potent that there is no safe dose. The purity can also vary within a single batch.
- Nitazene use has been linked to death and other serious harms in NSW.
- The risks of overdose are increased if you:
 - ❌ Use drugs alone.
 - ❌ Use nitazenes or other opioids if you have not used them before.
 - ❌ Use drugs again after a break.
 - ❌ Use with other drugs (like alcohol, benzodiazepines, ketamine, or GHB).
 - ❌ Use a new batch.

Take Home Naloxone Program

- **Naloxone** is a life-saving medicine that can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose. Naloxone is available in an easy to use [nasal spray](#), and as a [pre-filled injection](#). With basic training, it can be administered by anyone.
- The effects of naloxone may wear off, and ongoing doses and hospital treatment may be needed.
- You should carry naloxone if:
 - You are using drugs such as cocaine, ketamine, methamphetamine, MDMA, benzos, or opioids.
 - You are hosting or going to a party where drugs will be present.
- If you might experience or witness an opioid overdose you can get **naloxone for free without a prescription in NSW** from [many community pharmacies, needle and syringe programs, opioid treatment services](#) and [NUAA](#).
- Visit [Your Room](#) to find out where you can get naloxone and for more information on take home naloxone.
- NUAA can mail you naloxone in a discreet package. Order via their online shop: [shop.nuaa.org.au](#) or call (02) 9171 6650.

For up-to-date alerts, visit <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/drugalerts>

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