

KNOW THE RISKS: MEDETOMIDINE

MEDETOMIDINE IS A VETERINARY SEDATIVE SIMILAR IN STRUCTURE TO XYLAZINE. IT HAS RECENTLY BEEN FOUND IN THE ILLICIT FENTANYL SUPPLY IN SEVERAL US STATES, INCLUDING IN SEVERAL KENTUCKY COUNTIES.



WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MEDETOMIDINE?

- **HARSH WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS:** Medetomidine causes strong withdrawal symptoms with a rapid onset (3-4 hours after use) and often requires hospitalization. Symptoms include increased heart rate, tremors, headaches, shortness of breath, and anxiety.
- **OVERDOSE SYMPTOMS:** Medetomidine overdose can cause a slow heartbeat, lowered blood pressure, and slowed or stopped breathing. Someone who is overdosing on medetomidine may feel dizzy, extremely tired or confused, and/or be unable to breathe or move.
- **HARD TO DETECT:** You can't see or smell medetomidine. The only way to know if it's in your drugs is to check them with a medetomidine test strip.

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TIPS FOR STAYING SAFER WHILE USING MEDETOMIDINE:

- Carry extra naloxone, and practice rescue breathing between doses.
- Use with others, and don't leave anyone on their own after an overdose.
- Watch for skin wounds: Medetomidine is often found alongside xylazine.
- Seek medical care if needed, especially if experiencing withdrawal symptoms.

