

WHAT IS **MEDETOMIDINE?**

Medetomidine or “rhino tranq” is a potent veterinary sedative detected in illicit drugs, often mixed with fentanyl or other substances. It has shown an increased presence in samples from across Baltimore City.

Medetomidine is **not approved for human use and poses significant health risks** as it can result in prolonged sedation and severe withdrawal, especially when combined with opioids or other central nervous system depressants. Medetomidine exposure often requires hospitalization.

Effects of medetomidine include feelings of euphoria, confusion, high blood pressure, slow heart rate, muscle twitching, and heavy long-lasting sedation. Withdrawal can start quickly and become very serious.



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
OVERDOSE RESPONSE

HOW TO RESPOND TO AN OVERDOSE →

RESPONDING TO AN OVERDOSE



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
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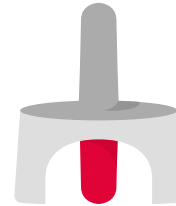


**Check for
responsiveness**



CALL 911

Some symptoms of medetomidine ingestion require immediate medical attention, especially if someone has lost consciousness or is vomiting.



ADMINISTER NALOXONE

Naloxone does not work for medetomidine BUT medetomidine is often mixed with fentanyl or other opioids, so naloxone will still help and should be administered.



**Check breathing
and give rescue
breaths**

HARM REDUCTION STRATEGIES

- **Carry naloxone** and use it for any suspected opioid overdose; expect sedation to linger and watch breathing. If someone is breathing well, they may not need more naloxone.
- **Avoid using alone;** consider drug checking where available.
- **Seek care early** if severe vomiting, pounding headache, chest pain, confusion, or marked blood pressure/heart rate changes appear after use.
- Know what you're taking: **Medetomidine Test Strips (MTS)** are now available at ORPs across the City.



SCAN TO FIND A
SYRINGE SERVICE
PROGRAM THAT
PARTICIPATES IN
RAPID ANALYSIS
OF DRUGS