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| **DRUG INCIDENT REPORTING**  **Drug Alert – Monitoring** | |
| **Subject:** Reporting rapid-onset overdoses | A number of rapid-onset overdoses have been identified across Scotland and in Aberdeen City over recent weeks, leading to an increased level of harm. This has been associated with several near-fatal and fatal drug overdoses with opioid features, leading to a drug alert being issued within NHS Grampian on 14/03/25. This situation is potentially due to nitazene contamination of street heroin.  **Please report any overdoses fitting the below case definition over 03/05/25 to 28/03/25 to gram.substancemisusealert@nhs.scot.** |
| **Case Definition** | Identified clusters have shared the following criteria:   * Individuals have rapidly and unexpectedly become unresponsive immediately following substance use. * Overdoses have required giving more naloxone than usual for the individual to become responsive.   The presence of injecting equipment still in place is strongly suggestive of a rapid overdose, though may not be present as **incidents have been associated with both smoking and injection as routes of consumption**. |
| **Specific actions for staff and services** | **Please report any incidents matching the above criteria over the period 03/03/25 – 28/03/25 to** [**gram.substancemisusealert@nhs.scot**](mailto:gram.substancemisusealert@nhs.scot) **including the following information (if available):**   * Date of incident * Gender of affected individual * Age of affected individual * Post code of incident   **In addition to this, please continue to follow the actions and advice outlined in the alert issued on 14/03/25 and to report information to RADAR (see below).** |
| **Dissemination** | Target services:   * Police services * Justice Services * Scottish Ambulance Service * 3rd sector drug services * Community Pharmacies * GP teams * ED, toxicology and AMIA teams * Please circulate widely with colleagues working with people who use drugs |
| National Resources | * [SDF Overdose Alert Information](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsdf.org.uk%2Fraised-concern-after-rise-in-sudden-overdoses-in-people-using-heroin-in-scotland%2F&data=05%7C02%7Csimon.rayner%40nhs.scot%7C2352352c975b4287cccb08dd62e3a819%7C10efe0bda0304bca809cb5e6745e499a%7C0%7C0%7C638775452146957393%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=hcy1NraTGX4dxwTwyEYm5Gj8hOPSWD%2F%2BRVhgkiejkh8%3D&reserved=0) * [SDF Overdose Alert PDF](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsdf.org.uk%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2025%2F03%2FSDF-Overdose-Alert.March-2025.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Csimon.rayner%40nhs.scot%7C2352352c975b4287cccb08dd62e3a819%7C10efe0bda0304bca809cb5e6745e499a%7C0%7C0%7C638775452146988375%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rMlziJDhOJ78vPmsG3Ok80r5IdLm8kwlrXrL7XtaodM%3D&reserved=0) * [PHS overdose media statement](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.publichealthscotland.scot%2Fnews%2F2025%2Fmarch%2Fphs-urges-caution-after-increase-in-sudden-overdoses-in-scotland%2F&data=05%7C02%7Csimon.rayner%40nhs.scot%7C2352352c975b4287cccb08dd62e3a819%7C10efe0bda0304bca809cb5e6745e499a%7C0%7C0%7C638775452147006904%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8cfptGY5PDgrDW3JmYpMVsmXE6zRBIZcNO49CRflmdA%3D&reserved=0) * [RADAR nitazene alert](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpublichealthscotland.scot%2Fpublications%2Frapid-action-drug-alerts-and-response-radar-alerts%2Fradar-nitazenes-alert%2Fpublic-health-alert-for-action-nitazene-type-drugs-in-scotland%2F&data=05%7C02%7Csimon.rayner%40nhs.scot%7C2352352c975b4287cccb08dd62e3a819%7C10efe0bda0304bca809cb5e6745e499a%7C0%7C0%7C638775452147024935%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bo4d4MmWLWIlOLiBq43Hx2v5NbpHq3CLzO2TnaHd2fc%3D&reserved=0) |
| If your service has any information or intelligence which may help, please email: [gram.substancemisusealert@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.substancemisusealert@nhs.scot) providing a brief overview of what has occurred or been reported.  We encourage people to continue to report any drug concerns and trends to RADAR, though our [reporting form](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.publichealthscotland.scot%2Fpopulation-health%2Fimproving-scotlands-health%2Fsubstance-use%2Fsurveillance%2Frapid-action-drug-alerts-and-response-radar%2Fhow-can-i-get-involved%2Fhow-can-i-send-information%2F&data=05%7C02%7Csimon.rayner%40nhs.scot%7C7ad2f8640abe4b0473df08dd62e73a2b%7C10efe0bda0304bca809cb5e6745e499a%7C0%7C0%7C638775467474981433%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=H7IzERF3ftYjrZlcVCRIy%2B7ahb6QCQ%2BZe03h588VvVk%3D&reserved=0) or email | |

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**Contact e-mail address:** gram.substancemisusealert@nhs.scot

**Date e-mail sent**: 18/03/2025

**ENDS**