



Interior Health



# XYLAZINE DRUG ADVISORY

## Interior Health Region

Here is what we know:

- Xylazine, or “Tranq”, is very prevalent in the drug supply in the eastern United States and regularly appears in Ontario.
- Xylazine is a veterinary drug that has not been approved for human use and can have severe side effects that can be delayed in their appearance.
- Xylazine is a sedative, analgesic, and muscle relaxant. Naloxone will not work on Xylazine but it will work on any opioids that are present. Continue to follow SAVE ME protocols.
- Xylazine can be fatal on its own, with the dose and the response curve is unclear
- Xylazine can increase health risks, and greatly increase the risk of overdose. Long blackouts, coma, and deaths have been reported.
- Xylazine use is often associated with abscesses and other skin ulcerations that do not heal on their own, often becoming infected and complicated. Important to note that these skin lesions do not come from the injection sites; they can be found anywhere on the body.
- Current harm reduction advice for drugs containing xylazine is to use as little as possible with great caution.

### Here are some tips for staying safer:

- Get your drugs checked
- Avoid using different drugs at the same time or using drugs and alcohol together.
- Don't use alone or ask someone to check on you.
- If you must use while alone, consider using the Lifeguard app
- When using your substance start with a small amount, and then go slow.
- Use at an Overdose Prevention or Supervised Consumption Site, if one is near you.
- Know how to respond to an overdose - call 911, give rescue breaths and naloxone.

NEW! TOXIC DRUG AND HEALTH ALERTS: Toxic drug and health alerts are currently available in Interior Health. To sign up, text the word JOIN to 253787 (ALERTS) To find a take home naloxone site visit: <https://towardtheheart.com/site-finder> Drug checking locations can be found at <https://drugchecking.ca>