



Health Advisory: Unknown Drug Outbreak and Reporting

Minnesota Department of Health Fri Jun 26 12:30 CDT 2015

Action Steps:

Local and tribal health department: Please forward to hospitals and clinics, including emergency departments, urgent care centers, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

Hospitals, clinics and other facilities: Please distribute to all healthcare providers in these facilities.

Health care providers:

- Watch for patients with relative or absolute bradycardia, hypotension, and decreased level of consciousness ranging from drowsiness to obtundation, especially those who report smoking or ingesting an unknown or synthetic drug. These symptoms are not consistent with cathinone or synthetic cannabinoid toxicity.
- Contact Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222 for medical treatment recommendations.
- Report all cases to Poison Control. Even if you are familiar with treatment of these substances, this will assist with tracking this problem across the state.

Background:

The Minnesota Poison Control System has consulted on seven patients this week, believed to have taken some sort of unknown "synthetic" drug. Patient symptoms included decreased level of consciousness, hypotension and relative or absolute bradycardia. These symptoms are not consistent with the previously reported signs and symptoms of synthetic cannabinoid or cathinone toxicity. Transient agitation was observed in 2 patients and quickly progressed to obtundation requiring endotracheal intubation for airway protection. Duluth Police reported two additional patients.

In July 2013, Commissioner of Health Edward Ehlinger designated an ongoing epidemiologic investigation of drug overdoses and other poisonings; the data for this investigation are necessary to protect the public's health, and are designated as private health data that are not subject to discovery, per Minnesota Statutes.

For more information contact Minnesota Poison Control System 1-800-222-1222. The Poison Center is available to all Minnesotans 24/7, is free of charge and confidential.

