

Toxic Drug Advisory

Fraser Health Region

Medetomidine continues to be detected in the **unregulated opioid supply** throughout **Fraser Health** communities.

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Medetomidine is a potent non-opioid sedative used in veterinary medicine. It is similar to xylazine ("tranq") but approximately 200 times more potent. Naloxone does not reverse the effects of medetomidine. Naloxone should always still be administered in suspected opioid poisonings. Be prepared for prolonged sedation and the need for continuous airway support and monitoring. Check for responsiveness and regular breathing before administering more naloxone. Medetomidine withdrawal can lead to severe symptoms, most notably a rapid heart rate and dangerously high blood pressure.

Friends, family, and community members using unregulated substances may face increased harms of unknowingly taking different substances than intended.

Tips for safer drug use:

- Explore with service providers options for witnessing consumption and local Overdose Prevention Sites
- Stagger use with friends so someone can respond if needed
- If using alone let someone know and ask them to check on you
 - Download the Lifeguard, BeSafe or the NORS app <https://www.nors.ca/>
 - Call the National Overdose Response Service: 1-888-688-6677 if no cell data
- Take a small amount, wait and see how it feels
- Mixing substances increases risk of overdose. This includes alcohol and prescription drugs
- Find local harm reduction services www.towardtheheart.com/site-finder
- Get your drugs checked www.fraserhealth.ca/drugchecking
- Be prepared to call 9-1-1. Give breaths. Carry Naloxone. Visit www.naloxonetraining.com for a training refresher
- **Text 'JOIN' to 253787 to receive text alerts**

