



THE FACTS ABOUT NITAZENES

Nitazenes are synthetic opioids that may be up to 4,300 times stronger than morphine. Due to their potency, multiple doses of Narcan may be required to reverse a nitazene-related overdose.¹

Counterfeit nitazenes can be produced in a wide variety of colors. Nitazenes can be injected, snorted, vaped, or swallowed as tablets.

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At least 13 different types of nitazenes have been identified. The most common nitazene is isonitazene (ISO).

5-9x

Isonitazene is 5 to 9 times stronger than fentanyl. Some types of nitazenes can be up to 43x times stronger than fentanyl.

STREET NAMES FOR NITAZENES

- ISO
- Tony/Toni
- Zenes
- Zeenies^{2,3}

MOST COMMON NITAZENES

- Isonitazene
- Metonitazene
- Butonitazene
- Etodesnitazene
- Flunitazene
- N-pyrrolidinio etonitazene¹

ILLICITLY MANUFACTURED NITAZENES

There are no approved medical uses for nitazenes so the supply is linked to illicit manufacturers.¹ Illicitly manufactured nitazenes are available on the drug market in different forms, including counterfeit pills and powder. Nitazene-laced drugs are extremely dangerous, and small doses can be fatal. It is often mixed with other drugs because of its extreme potency, which makes drugs stronger, cheaper, and more dangerous. Many people may be unaware that their drugs are laced with nitazenes which increases the risk of overdose.

SIGNS OF OVERDOSE

It may be difficult to tell whether someone is experiencing an overdose. Here are some things to look for:

- Pinpoint pupils
- Slow/shallow breathing
- Cold/clammy skin
- Bluish/greyish lips and complexion
- Loss of consciousness³



1 Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, September 2024; "The Emergence of Nitazenes in the Americas"; [https://www.oas.org/ext/DesktopModules/MVC/OASDnnModules/Views/Item/Download.aspx?type=1&id=1045&lang=1#:~:text=Nitazenes%20\(benzimidazoleopioids\)%20are,manufacture%20in%20Utah%20in%20202003.](https://www.oas.org/ext/DesktopModules/MVC/OASDnnModules/Views/Item/Download.aspx?type=1&id=1045&lang=1#:~:text=Nitazenes%20(benzimidazoleopioids)%20are,manufacture%20in%20Utah%20in%20202003.); last accessed 9 February 2026.

2 Drug Enforcement Administration, December 2025; "Isotonitazene"; https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_chem_info/isotonitazene.pdf; last accessed 9 February 2026.

3 "Nitazenes: Signs of overdose and how to respond"; International Overdose Awareness Day; [https://www.overdoseday.com/news/nitazenes-signs-of-overdose-and-how-to-respond/#:~:text=What%20are%20nitazenes%20Nitazenes%20\(sometimes%20called%20'zines',the%201950s%20but%20never%20approved%20as%20medicines](https://www.overdoseday.com/news/nitazenes-signs-of-overdose-and-how-to-respond/#:~:text=What%20are%20nitazenes%20Nitazenes%20(sometimes%20called%20'zines',the%201950s%20but%20never%20approved%20as%20medicines); last accessed 9 February 2026.

