

Xylazine (Tranq)-Involved Overdose Response

What is xylazine?

Xylazine (also called “tranq”) is a powerful sedative that has primarily been found mixed with illegal fentanyl. Xylazine is not an opioid, but when used in combination with opioids like fentanyl, it increases the risk of heavy drowsiness, overdose, and death.

While naloxone does not work on xylazine, it can help restore breathing & reverse the opioid part of an overdose. Xylazine has primarily been found mixed with fentanyl, so *always give naloxone*, and then call 911 if you suspect any kind of drug overdose.

How to Respond to a Xylazine-Involved Overdose

If someone is not breathing, follow the steps to respond to an opioid overdose and give them naloxone.

If someone is breathing at a normal rate (one breath every 5 seconds), do not give them more naloxone, even if they are still groggy or won't wake up. Xylazine and other drugs that cause drowsiness can keep a person from waking up.

- Place the unconscious person on their side in the recovery position to reduce the risk they will choke if they vomit.
- Continue to monitor the person's breathing. Naloxone stops working after 30 to 90 minutes, so have more naloxone ready to give them if their breathing slows or stops again.
- Stay with them until EMS arrives. If you can't stay, make sure they are in the recovery position when you leave.



Email naloxoneprogram@doh.wa.gov with questions.



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