



21 January 2026 (#16)



Drug Alert - Detection of Cychlorphine and Medetomidine

We have been notified of the detection of two novel substances being found in the Birmingham Drug Supply.

Substances Identified

- **Cychlorphine** – Synthetic Opioid
- **Medetomidine** – Veterinary Sedative

These substances have been identified in samples where heroin use was also indicated.

What are they?

Cychlorphine (Synthetic Opioid)

- Cychlorphine is a highly potent synthetic opioid, comparable to Nitazenes.
- It binds very strongly to opioid receptors, meaning it can cause powerful and long-lasting effects even at low doses.
- Likely effects are slowed breathing, heavy drowsiness, confusion, feeling anxious or agitated, nausea, and low blood pressure.

- Naloxone may be less effective: reports suggest only partial reversal, or it may require multiple repeat doses

Medetomidine (Veterinary Sedative)

- Medetomidine is licensed for **animal sedation only** and has no approved human use.
- Like other powerful veterinary sedatives (Xylazine) but more potent, with more severe and longer-lasting effects including deep sedation, slow heart rate, low blood pressure, and suppressed brain and nervous system activity.

Key Risks

- Increased risk of **overdose**
- Naloxone may require **multiple administrations**
- Sedation and respiratory depression may be **prolonged**
- People will likely be unaware these substances are present

Harm Reduction Guidance

Please reinforce the following messages with service users:

Overdose Prevention

- Carry **naloxone** and ensure people around you know how to use it
- Call **999** immediately if overdose is suspected
- Naloxone may need **repeat doses**

Safer Use

- Go low go slow
- Avoid using alone
- Avoid mixing with alcohol, benzos or other sedatives.

Post-Naloxone Care

- Effects of these substances may **outlast naloxone**
- Monitor for re-sedation
- Encourage hospital assessment after revival

If you have concerns about yourself or someone you know, please get in contact with our Birmingham service.

You can [make a referral](#) on our website

Call us on 0121 227 5890

Or [email us](#)

If you have a drug alert for us, please email us [here](#) with all the relevant

information.

Thank you,

Change Grow Live Birmingham Drug Alerts



Exciting News!
Our Brand-New CP BSOL Website is Live!

Take a look!

<https://birmingham-solihull.communitypharmacy.org.uk>



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