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**NAPA COUNTY**  
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**HEALTH ADVISORY**  
**March 28, 2023**  
**Presence of Xylazine in Illicit Fentanyl**

**TO:** Healthcare Providers  
**FROM:** Christine Wu, MD, MPH  
Health Officer/Deputy Director, HHSA – Public Health

**Summary:**

We are bringing a new health threat to your attention.

Xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer with no approved human use, is showing up in the nation's street drug supply, where it is also known as "tranq" and "tranq dope." It is increasingly present in overdose deaths, compounding the overdose crisis.

On March 20th, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released a [Xylazine Alert Letter \(ca.gov\)](#) requesting Local Health Officers share this [FDA xylazine alert for health professionals](#) with medical providers in our jurisdiction.

There is no evidence to suggest that xylazine is currently prevalent in California's drug supply, however experts note that xylazine may be mirroring the path of fentanyl in the illicit drug market with a westward expansion.

A sedative and not an opioid, xylazine is not known to be reversed by naloxone. However, since xylazine is typically combined with opioids like fentanyl and sometimes heroin, administering naloxone is still recommended for reversing an overdose. When patients do not respond to naloxone, providers should consider the possibility of xylazine exposure. No FDA medication is approved for xylazine withdrawal, but the Philadelphia Department of Public Health posted some [approaches](#) that are being used.

Further information along with the CDPH and FDA alerts are available on the [Napa Public Health website](#) or via the links below.

FDA Dear Colleague letter: <https://www.fda.gov/media/162981/download>

CDPH alert: [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/sapb/CDPH%20Document%20Library/20230320\\_Xylazine\\_Alert\\_Letter.pdf](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CCDPHP/sapb/CDPH%20Document%20Library/20230320_Xylazine_Alert_Letter.pdf)

Approaches: [https://hip.phila.gov/document/3154/PDPH-HAN\\_Update\\_13\\_Xylazine\\_12.08.2022.pdf/](https://hip.phila.gov/document/3154/PDPH-HAN_Update_13_Xylazine_12.08.2022.pdf/)

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