

We have received reports of Pills and tablets in blister packs pretending to be prescribed drugs - RISK TO LIFE.

There have been serious cases of overdose across Cornwall and Exeter and South Devon in recent weeks where a range of tablets of differing colours, made to look like prescribed drugs have been responsible alone or in combination with other substances. These pills have meant numerous people have been admitted to hospital.

The drugs are being made to look like Benzodiazepines -Valium, Lorazepam, Rohypnol (Flunitrazepam) and Alprazolam (Xanax), coming as coloured tablets. They often come in blister packs, which look like they are pharmaceutically prepared, but they are not.

Some tablets do not contain any benzodiazepine at all, instead containing very dangerous chemicals for non-medical use.

What are the effects of these pills?

The effects of the tablets made these people so unwell that one person was unable to recover for 48 hours and many others ended up in hospital. These tablets could make you vulnerable to predatory behaviour from others.

Benzodiazepine drugs that are not from a GP (i.e. online or bought through illicit routes) are especially dangerous. Even more so if combined with alcohol and/ or other drugs.

Benzodiazepine drugs regularly feature in drug related deaths in Devon and Cornwall.

What advice should you give?

Our best advice is, wherever possible, to avoid using these pills completely. If you witness someone experiencing these symptoms or are experiencing them yourself in suspected overdose:

- 1. Call 999 for an ambulance**
- 2. Give immediate first aid basic life support (recovery position and monitor the airway, breathing & pulse).**
- 3. Do not assume that a person who is still functioning normally will not worsen later.**

Naloxone will not reverse an overdose with these drugs.

Contact (Together/Y-SMART Specialist Substance Misuse services) for more information

Together- T: 0800 233 5444 (Adults)

E: info@edp.org.uk

Y-SMART (Children and Young People's service)

T: 01271 388162

E: y-smart@devon.gov.uk

To raise awareness amongst staff and service users of those living with drug addiction and recreational drug users



Public Health Devon



