



**STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

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Attorney General**

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RE: Information on New Psychotropic Substances – Isotonitazene and Flualprazolam

Dear Valued Partner,

DOJ would like to alert law enforcement agencies of two new psychotropic substances, Isotonitazene and Flualprazolam, that have been identified in Wisconsin and may present a potential hazard to the community. Isotonitazene and Flualprazolam have recently been reported in several drug overdose deaths in Milwaukee County and have been identified in cases across the state at the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratories (WSCL) and the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.

The WSCL has identified Isotonitazene and/or Flualprazolam in several samples that were suspected opiates and had a similar appearance to opiate type samples. Flualprazolam may also be found in illicit tablets. As with any suspected opiate samples, you should take proper safety precautions and wear proper PPE. Although these substances may be found as an individual component in a sample, they are often found together or in combination with controlled substances such as heroin and fentanyl. The combination of these substances increases the risk of overdose^{1,2}.

Isotonitazene is classified as a new synthetic opiate and is structurally similar to the Schedule I controlled substance, Etonitazene. Etonitazene and Isotonitazene belong to a class of synthetic opiates that are expected to have similar potency or greater potency than fentanyl¹. This high potency may require several doses of Naloxone to counteract an overdose. Isotonitazene has been marketed on the internet as a legal replacement for controlled opiates. With structural similarity to Etonitazene, Isotonitazene may be charged as a controlled substance analog under Section 961.25 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Flualprazolam is classified as a benzodiazepine and is structurally similar to the Schedule IV controlled substances, Alprazolam (Xanax[®]) and Triazolam (Halcion[®]). Although previously patented, it was never marketed in the pharmaceutical community and has been referred to as a “designer” benzodiazepine. Flualprazolam would be expected to have sedative effects similar to Alprazolam² which may include drowsiness, dizziness, impaired coordination, slurred speech and loss of memory. It is available on the internet often marketed as a research chemical. Flualprazolam is not controlled under Section 961.25 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The Controlled Substances Board (CSB) has taken steps to emergency control Isotonitazene. It is anticipated that Isotonitazene will be added to Wisconsin Statute 961 as a Schedule I controlled

substance at the end of May. The CSB is currently gathering information regarding Flualprazolam. If you have any information regarding current cases or investigations related to Flualprazolam, please contact Sharon Henes at the Department of Safety and Professional Services at Sharon.Henes@wisconsin.gov or (608) 261-2377.

Sincerely,



Nicole L. Roehm
Administrator
Division of Forensic Sciences



Sandy M. Koresch
Controlled Substances Unit Technical Leader
Division of Forensic Sciences

¹ *Isotonitazene*, European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/13028/EMCDDA-Initial-report_Isotonitazene.pdf

² *Critical Review Report: Flualprazolam*, World Health Organization
https://www.who.int/medicines/access/controlled-substances/Final_Flualprazolam.pdf?ua=1