

December 15, 2016

Attention: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Hospitals - Emergency Rooms / Infection Control / Occupational Health, Walk-In Clinics, EMS, Corrections, Addictions/Treatment Agencies, Pharmacies

RE: CARFENTANIL DETECTED IN TORONTO AND WATERLOO REGION

- Health Canada has confirmed the presence of Carfentanil in green counterfeit pills stamped 'CDN' and '80' found in Waterloo Region
- Toronto Police Services confirmed the presence of carfentanil in recently submitted substances reported to be heroin, but tested positive for cocaine, caffeine and carfentanil.
- Carfentanil is 10,000 times more toxic than morphine
- Carfentanil is an opioid that is used to sedate large animals such as elephants and is not for human consumption
- Carfentanil cannot be detected by sight, smell, or taste

When in contact with clients who may be using drugs or you suspect a client you are speaking with is using drugs, please discuss the following:

IF USING SUBSTANCES:

- Be aware that Carfentanil is being cut into other substances
- Never use substances alone
- Try a very small amount first
- If you use with someone, do not use at the exact same time
- Avoid mixing substances
- Become trained in giving Naloxone, and know how to respond to an overdose
- Have Naloxone ready.

WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE MAY HAVE OVERDOSED:

1. Call 911
2. Administer naloxone if an opioid overdose is suspected
3. Continue to assist the victim until paramedics arrive

TO GET NALOXONE AND OPIOID OVERDOSE TRAINING, CONTACT:

- HKPR Public Health Unit – 1-866-888-4577
- PARN - (705) 749-9110
- Local pharmacies may also provide training and distribute Naloxone (health card required)