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## FDA APPROVES FIRST OTC NALOXONE NASAL SPRAY

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Narcan, 4 milligram (mg) naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for over-the-counter (OTC), nonprescription, use – the first naloxone product approved for use without a prescription. Naloxone is a medication that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose and is the standard treatment for opioid overdose. Today’s action paves the way for the life-saving medication to reverse an opioid overdose to be sold directly to consumers in places like drug stores, convenience stores, grocery stores and gas stations, as well as online.

News  
Release

## NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, **April 22, 2023**, aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Learn  
More



## ILPMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Welcome Tran Tran, Pharm D., BCPS, to the ILPMP **Advisory Committee**. Dr. Tran earned her Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed a pharmacy practice residency at the University of Illinois Chicago. She is an Associate Professor in Pharmacy Practice at Midwestern University Chicago College of Pharmacy

and is the Substance Use Intervention Team (SUIT) clinical pharmacist in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at Rush University Medical Center. She serves as the health director for the Midwestern University Drug Overdose Prevention Program and oversees the SUIT Drug Overdose Prevention Program. Dr. Tran is a former chair of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Pain and Palliative Care Practice and Research Network, the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Substance Use Disorder Special Interest Group, and a mentor for a Pharmacy Quality Alliance - CVS Health Foundation Scholar. Dr. Tran has received state and national recognition for her clinical practice, professional service, and research.



## XYLAZINE - WHAT TO KNOW

### **Please be aware that Xylazine is involved in increasing overdoses and other health issues.**

Xylazine, a non-opioid veterinary tranquilizer not approved for human use, has been linked to an increasing number of overdose deaths nationwide in the evolving drug addiction and overdose crisis. Studies show people exposed to xylazine often knowingly or unknowingly used it with other drugs, particularly illicit fentanyl. Also known as “tranq,” xylazine is a central nervous system depressant that can cause drowsiness and amnesia and slow breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure to dangerously low levels. Taking opioids in combination with xylazine and other central nervous system depressants—like alcohol or benzodiazepines—increases the risk of life-threatening overdose.”

Naloxone use is still indicated in known xylazine overdoses since opioids are usually part of the drug mix. Because naloxone does not work specifically on xylazine, only on opioids that are present in the individual’s supply, the patient may not completely be revived or reversed with just naloxone. The mortality rate is higher if they have xylazine poisoning (in addition to the opioid in their supply) because they require an ER or ICU if they get to the point of needing oxygen/etc. Other potential effects of use are that it causes severe soft tissue infections including abscesses, cellulitis, and skin ulceration.

No matter how or where an individual injects or the route of use, a xylazine skin-induced problem can occur, including skin ulcers that begin as blackened eschar that progresses to skin and muscle ulceration. They require hospitalization, IV antibiotics, and surgical debridement – it is very painful for the patient and sometimes requires amputation.

*Illinois Department of Human Services - Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery Newsletter, March 2023*

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**Xylazine was found in over 190 drug overdose deaths in Illinois between Jan. 2019 – June 2022, with increases in deaths every six months.**

The Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery created this

flyer specifically for people who use drugs. Please share with your patients, clients, and peers.

Flyer

**Know what's in your drugs**  
**TRANQ | XYLAZINE**  
 Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer that is cut in dope to give fentanyl longer legs. It's known as "anestesia de caballo" in Puerto Rico and "tranq" in Chicago.

Tranq was found in over **190 of drug overdose deaths** in Illinois between Jan 2019 - June 2022, with increases in deaths every 6 months.

When tranq is mixed with another drug (like fentanyl, heroin, or a benz), the **chance of overdose increases**. If someone is overdosing, administer naloxone like you normally would. If the person starts breathing again but is still sedated, they don't need more naloxone. Put them in rescue position and keep an eye on them.

Tranq has been associated with severe wounds, which spread and worsen very quickly.

**These wounds are seen regardless of how people use:** smoking, snorting, or injecting. It's very difficult for these wounds to heal on their own so it is important to get medical attention if you have one.

**What can you do if you think there is tranq in your dope?**

- Carry naloxone
- Start slow and go slow
- Tell someone you're using

First, try to ask around and see how the drug is making other people feel before you buy or use it. Since tranq can cause a really heavy nod, try to use somewhere that you will be safe and won't fall and hurt yourself. Finally, if you think there is tranq in your dope let others know—including someone at your local exchange program so folks know to be careful.

**Help is here** | 833-234-6343 | **Never Use Alone**  
 HelplineL.org | English hotline: 800-484-3781 | Spanish hotline: 800-928-3300  
 The Brave App | Download in the app store

# IDPH SEMI-ANNUAL OPIOID REPORT

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has published the Statewide Semi-annual Opioid report.

View Report



# EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

These are the upcoming dates for the SIUe and ILPMP Virtual Lunch and Learn series. Additional information, including registration, will be available soon. Please note, these webinars are not for CE/CME.

**Virtual Lunch and Learn Series:**  
**12:00 - 1:00 p.m. CST**

- April 27** Best Practices in Risk Mitigation
- June 22** New & Future ILPMP Features
- August 24** New Advances in Non-pharm treatment



## Webinar: Continuing Medical Education

### Interoperability for Combating the Opioid Epidemic



- Recognize methods to optimize the end-user experience when implementing ILPMP interoperability
- List strategies to orient end-users to an integrated ILPMP interface and to overcome

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Senate Bill 0421

The ILPMP proposed **Senate Bill 0421**, sponsored by Senator Ellman, addresses legislative language requiring “all EHRs” (Electronic Health Records) to integrate with the ILPMP. The undefined term “all” creates an issue with measuring compliance because there is no available tracking mechanism to determine “all EHRs” in Illinois. If SB 0421 is passed, it will allow the ILPMP to define the entities required for integration and define exemptions if needed.

SB 0421 clarifies that healthcare facilities and pharmacy management systems are all responsible for initiating and ensuring connection. SB 0421 also removes the outdated submission language of “date(s) dispensed”, because this data field is not available in the American Society of Automation in the Pharmacy’s standards. This data field may be impossible to report because many pharmacy management systems are not integrated with their point-of-sale system. This field will be an optional field and will be a required field when available.

## ILPMP.ORG & PMPNOW MONTHLY DATA

### WEBSITE DATA

February 2023



219

NEW USERS IN  
FEBRUARY



86,977

TOTAL USERS



64,838

TOTAL ILPMP  
PRESCRIBER  
USERS



999,361

TOTAL ILPMP  
WEBSITE  
REQUESTS



1,516

TOTAL PMPNOW  
CONNECTIONS



7,774,925

TOTAL PMPNOW  
REQUESTS

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about the information that appears in this update, or suggestions for future content, please email [dhs.pmp@illinois.gov](mailto:dhs.pmp@illinois.gov). Visit [www.ilpmp.org](http://www.ilpmp.org) for more information.



*The Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program (ILPMP) is an electronic database that collects, tracks, and stores reported dispensing data on Schedule II-V controlled substances, selected drugs of interest, and other health information. The Illinois Department of Human Services oversees the ILPMP, authorized by the Illinois Controlled Substances Act (720 ILCS 570/316). The ILPMP adheres to HIPAA and all access, disclosure, and confidentiality provisions of Illinois Law.*

Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program | 401 North Fourth Street, Springfield, IL 62702  
[www.ilpmp.org](http://www.ilpmp.org)

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