



Robert L. Quinn  
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# State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

## Division of Fire Standards and Training & Emergency Medical Services

[www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems)



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# CLINICAL BULLETIN

| Bulletin # | Title                               |                  |           | Date Issued           |
|------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 86         | Nitazene - Involved Overdose Deaths |                  |           | April 23, 2024        |
| Superseded | Released By                         | Approved By      | Source    | For More Information  |
|            | FSTEMS                              | Dr. Joey Scollan | CDC & DEA | FSTEMS (603) 223-4200 |

Nitazenes (also known as Benzimidazole-Opioids) have been detected in a growing number of overdose deaths. Nitazenes are being adulterated with fentanyl, methamphetamine, amphetamine, and a variety of other drugs. Nitazenes are NOT approved for human use and are listed as schedule 1 controlled substances. Nitazene use presents similar to other opioid overdoses with central nervous system and respiratory depression. When combined with opioids, these effects can be significant.

### Symptoms can include:

- Respiratory Depression or Arrest
- Bradycardia
- Hypotension
- Drowsiness or Sedation
- Disorientation

### Treating Nitazenes Overdose:

- Naloxone can reverse the effects of opioids however multiple doses may be required secondary to increased potency and the presence of additional unknown substances.
- EMS Providers should follow the [Opioid Overdose Protocol 2.15](#).
- EMS Providers should suspect Nitazene use in all patients presenting with symptoms consistent with opioid overdose and strongly suggest transport for further monitoring secondary to the unknown duration of effect associated with Nitazenes.
- EMS Providers should anticipate that patients may have used more than one type of substance and reversal of the opiate may unmask the effects of other substances which could lead to aggressive behavior.

### References

- Benzimidazole-Opioids other name: Nitazenes. (n.d.). [https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_chem\\_info/benzimidazole-opioids.pdf](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_chem_info/benzimidazole-opioids.pdf)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, September 15). Notes from the field: Nitazene-related deaths - Tennessee, 2019–2021. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7137a5.htm#suggestedcitation>