

# 5 Things to Know About Fentanyl

Fentanyl is a type of strong pain medicine that's made in a lab.

It's part of a group of drugs known as opioids.

Your doctor may prescribe fentanyl to help you manage severe pain.

But it can also be used in other ways that are very dangerous.

Here are 5 things you should know about fentanyl, plus an extra tip that could save a life.

One.

While fentanyl is sometimes prescribed by a doctor for pain relief, there is a different form of fentanyl that's made illegally.

Two.

Fentanyl is sometimes added to illegal drugs like methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin.

Three.

Fake, or counterfeit, medicines can also contain fentanyl.

This means fake medicine labeled as one thing—like oxycodone, certain benzodiazepine medicines, and amphetamines—may also contain fentanyl.

It's hard to know how much fentanyl could be mixed in with these kinds of fake drugs.

Without knowing it, you could also be taking fentanyl.

Four.

Fentanyl isn't just found in pills or in powder form.

It can also be added to other counterfeit medicines—like fake eyedrops or nasal sprays.

Fentanyl may also be dropped onto blotter paper.

Five.

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Because fentanyl is so powerful, it only takes a small amount for someone to overdose.

And when a drug is made illegally, it's hard to know how much fentanyl it contains.

Here's one more thing to know that may save a life.

Keep a naloxone rescue kit with you if you or someone you know takes opioids, uses illegal drugs, has a history of substance use, or has had an opioid emergency before.

Depending on where you live, your doctor may need to give you a prescription for a naloxone rescue kit or you may be able to get one without a prescription.

Now, it may be scary to think about the dangers of fentanyl.

But you can protect yourself—and the people you love—by staying aware.

Only take medicine prescribed by your doctor.

And if you or someone you know uses drugs or other substances that may contain fentanyl, make sure to keep a naloxone kit handy.