



Situational Awareness:

UPDATE - Heroin

Disguised as Oxycodone

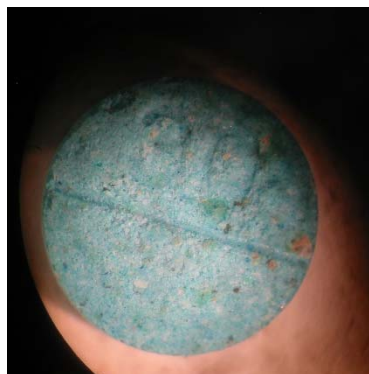


7 August 2014

(U//FOUO) NJ ROIC Fusion Liaison & Intelligence Training Unit ~ ROIC201408-02706F

HEROIN TABLETS IN NEW JERSEY

(U//FOUO) New Jersey State Forensic Laboratories and local partners have reported another incident of heroin in tablet form in New Jersey. The most recent seizure of heroin tablets in New Jersey occurred in Cherry Hill, Camden County on July 13, 2014. This is the second reported incident of heroin in tablet form in New Jersey this year. In June 2014, authorities discovered heroin tablets disguised as Oxycodone, but with different markings, at the Burlington County Jail in Mount Holly. The photos below (left and center) show the heroin tablet disguised as Oxycodone from Cherry Hill. The photo below (right) shows an actual Oxycodone tablet in a 30mg dosage. These counterfeit prescription drugs could lead to more opiate overdoses within your jurisdiction.



Cherry Hill, Camden County Seizure



Pharmaceutical Oxycodone

APPEARANCE

(U//FOUO) The tablets seized in Cherry Hill are blue and bear a capital “M” inside a square on one side with the numbers “30” on the other side over a horizontal scored line. The tablets seized in Mount Holly were also blue and bore a capital “A” over a horizontal scored line with the numbers “215” below the line. These are the same color and markings as those found on actual 30mg Oxycodone tablets. In both reported cases, the markings appear to be less clearly defined on the heroin tablets, and there appear to be more pronounced particles of darker material on the heroin tablets as compared to actual Oxycodone tablets.

HEROIN TABLETS IN OTHER STATES

(U//FOUO) From 2008 to 2011, law enforcement seized heroin disguised as Oxycodone in Washington, Kentucky, and New York. These tablets were green or blue and bore capital letters “OC” on one side and the numbers “80” on the other. More recently, in April 2013, a couple was arrested in New Hampshire after police

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found 84 blue tablets marked “M 30” that the New Hampshire State Laboratory initially tested for Oxycodone, before discovering the tablets actually contained heroin. In that case, the heroin tablets were noted to be off color compared to actual Oxycodone tablets, and the markings were not as crisp as the actual tablets. Another seizure of heroin tablets disguised as Oxycodone was made in Delaware County, Pennsylvania in September 2013.

IMPLICATIONS FOR NEW JERSEY AND THE REGION

(U//FOUO) The distribution of illicit drugs sold as prescription drugs is particularly dangerous. Disguising heroin tablets as Oxycodone could cause those seeking to obtain prescription drugs illegally to accidentally overdose on heroin. At this time, it is not known whether the heroin tablets are being marketed as Oxycodone or whether the tablets are known to be heroin by users who are seeking to avoid detection. It is also not known whether heroin tablets are being disguised as other types of prescription opiates or whether other adulterants are being combined with heroin in tablet form. Law enforcement and health care providers should be alert to the possibility that what appears to be legitimate prescription drugs, specifically Oxycodone, may actually be heroin.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

(U//FOUO) The NJ ROIC Fusion Liaison & Intelligence Training Unit is seeking additional information to assess impact and implications for NJ concerning this topic in furtherance of the Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI). Any recipient with further information is requested to contact the NJ ROIC Fusion Liaison & Intelligence Training Unit at: ROICOutreach@gw.njsp.org, by fax to 609-530-4174 or by calling 609-963-6900 ext. 6273 or 2044.

(U//FOUO) Through the DMI, the State Police Regional Crime Labs will facilitate expedited forensic analysis to assist investigators and health care professionals during emergent situations. Any law enforcement agency requiring expedited analysis of suspected drug specimens involved in overdoses should contact the NJ ROIC Fusion Liaison & Intelligence Training Unit at: ROICOutreach@gw.njsp.org, by fax to 609-530-4174 or by calling 609-963-6900 ext. 6273 or 2044.