April 9, 2026

N-Propionitrile Chlorphine "Cychlorphine"

Summary:
The Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas State Crime Laboratory are issuing Health Advisory to share information with healthcare professionals, law enforcement officials and first responders. The alert is to provide information of a new synthetic opioid detected in Arkansas called N-Propionitrile Chlorphine, more commonly referred to as cychlorphine.

Background

Cychlorphine is part of a growing class of synthetic opioids called **"orphine analogues"** or **"orphines."** A March 2026 Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (GC HIDTA) report noted that "data indicates cychlorphine is approximately 10x more potent than fentanyl." Of note, this substance is not currently scheduled by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Cychlorphine has been detected in nearby states – including Louisiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas – and recently, **it has also been detected in Arkansas**. The Tennessee Department of Health reported it was "providing statewide information following more than 30 fatal overdoses statewide, since October 2025, associated with a newly identified opioid known as cychlorphine."

Reports have indicated that cychlorphine may appear as a counterfeit pill or mixed with other illicit drugs, increasing the danger of potential exposure. The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory recently identified cychlorphine in a round tablet imprinted with "RP" and "10 325," a marking commonly associated with oxycodone/acetaminophen, highlighting the risk of counterfeit pills containing potent synthetic opioids.

Toxicology reports have detected cychlorphine either on its own or with other substances such as fentanyl and oxycodone. **The Arkansas State Crime Laboratory has reported at least one drug overdose death due to cychlorphine toxicity**.

According to the GC HIDTA report, cychlorphine is not currently picked up on routine toxicology testing.[1] In suspected drug overdoses with negative toxicology results for common substances, healthcare providers should consider the presence of a synthetic opioid such as an orphine analogue. It has also been reported that field test strips used to identify substances such as fentanyl will not detect cychlorphine.

Due to its reported strength and potency, small amounts of cychlorphine can result in a drug overdose. The GC HIDTA report indicates "users may experience intense fast-acting sedation (nodding out)." Naloxone (Narcan®) is traditionally utilized to treat opioid overdoses. In situations where potent, synthetic opioids, such as cychlorphine, are suspected, multiple doses of naloxone may be required.

In addition to intense sedation, signs of an opioid overdose include, but are not limited to, "unresponsiveness or unconsciousness, slowed or stopped breathing and heartbeat, blue lips or fingernails, snoring or gurgling sounds from the mouth, pinpoint pupils, and cold or clammy skin."

Recommendations:

Safety Information for First Responders, Healthcare Providers, and Law Enforcement Personnel

- Exercise caution when encountering unknown substances.
- Ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is used when handling unknown substances to reduce the risk of exposure.
- Follow established decontamination protocols if clothing, shoes, or PPE become contaminated.
- Move exposed individual(s) away from the source, administer naloxone as indicated, call Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and follow treatment protocols according to department policy.
- Overdose situations with synthetic opioids may require multiple doses of naloxone.

Healthcare Providers:

- In situations drug overdose with negative toxicology results for common substances, healthcare providers should consider the presence of a synthetic opioid.
- Recognize that synthetic opioids such as cychlorphine constitute medical emergencies and require immediate medical attention.

Additional Information:

- https://www.cadca.org/blog/new-alerts-highlight-emerging-synthetic-opioid-risks/
- https://cdn2.caymanchem.com/cdn/cms/caymanchem/LiteratureCMS/NPS%20Snapshot%20Orphines.pdf
- For additional information please contact Arkansas Department of Health, Pharmacy Services Section at 501-661-2325.

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