

“New” opioids circulating in Ontario’s unregulated opioid supply: Etodezitramide and cychlorphine

April 7, 2026

Ontario’s Drug Checking Community and its flagship program, [Toronto’s Drug Checking Service](#), are increasingly detecting a “new” family of non-fentanyl synthetic opioids in Ontario’s unregulated opioid supply: “orphines” (also known as benzimidazol-2-ones or brorphine analogues). To date, orphines have been found in opioid samples collected in Toronto and Thunder Bay.

[Etodezitramide](#) was first detected by our analysis site member at the [Centre for Addiction and Mental Health](#) (Clinical Laboratory and Diagnostic Services) on March 25, 2026. Between March 25 and April 1, 2026, we found etodezitramide in one Percocet sample and one fentanyl sample. **To our knowledge, we are the first to detect and publicly share the presence of etodezitramide in Canada’s unregulated drug supply.**

[Cychlorphine](#) was first detected by our analysis site member at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Clinical Laboratory and Diagnostic Services) on September 12, 2025. Between September 12, 2025, and April 2, 2026, we found cychlorphine in 9 fake pharmaceutical opioid samples (including Percocet, hydromorphone (Dilaudid), and oxycodone (OxyContin)) and one fentanyl sample.

While [available literature](#) indicates some orphines are considered to be roughly as strong as fentanyl, [data not yet published](#) suggests cychlorphine is approximately 10 times stronger than fentanyl. The strength of etodezitramide is currently unknown. Orphines are the newest family of high-potency synthetic opioids to present in Canada’s unregulated opioid supply, and evidence [of a larger trend that suggests when one group of opioids is scheduled or difficult to source \(e.g., nitazenes\), another – often more novel – will appear and replace it \(e.g., orphines\).](#)

Orphines are opioids, meaning naloxone should reverse their effects in an overdose situation. The risk of overdose may be further increased for people who use oxycodone (OxyContin), Percocet, or hydromorphone (Dilaudid), as compared to people who use fentanyl, because their opioid tolerance may be lower. In fentanyl samples, high-potency opioids are often found in combination, as well as with other central nervous and/or respiratory system depressants, potentially increasing the risk of overdose and complicating overdose response.

Review [our tips and help](#) to reduce the harms associated with using drugs from an unregulated supply.

We are continuing to monitor this trend and will keep the community informed as we learn more. To interact with our data, visit www.drugchecking.community.

About us: Ontario's Drug Checking Community is a national authority and primary source of timely and comprehensive data on Canada's unregulated drug supply. This public health and safety program, which is the provincial expansion of [Toronto's Drug Checking Service](#), analyzes samples of drugs and used drug equipment donated by people who use drugs with [gold standard mass spectrometry technologies](#) at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (Clinical Laboratory and Diagnostic Services) or St. Michael's Hospital (Department of Laboratory Medicine). Technologies used and methods developed from checking tens of thousands of the most complex samples are the best currently available to communities in Ontario for checking unregulated opioids. This is critical because the contamination and unpredictability of the unregulated opioid (and, specifically, fentanyl) supply continues to be the primary driver of fatal and non-fatal drug poisoning, among other harms. The [program's findings](#) are translated and publicly available to prevent drug-related harm and inform evidence-based responses to the ongoing toxic opioid supply crisis, which include prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery, and community safety efforts.

Acknowledgements: We acknowledge the members of our communities that have lost their lives – both in the ongoing toxic opioid supply crisis and long before.

We acknowledge that racialized communities and survivors of colonization are disproportionately impacted by the toxic opioid supply crisis.

We acknowledge that we operate on Indigenous land, which is home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. Our program is coordinated from Toronto, which is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee, and the Wendat peoples.

We know that many of the samples we check are linked to fatal or non-fatal overdose, as well as adverse health events – we acknowledge the people and pain behind the data we share.

We acknowledge that our work is only possible – and we only have access to this data – because people who use drugs donate their drugs to our program in an effort to reduce the harms associated with using unregulated substances and facilitate community-led drug market monitoring and education. We are incredibly fortunate to be trusted by people who use drugs throughout the province.

We acknowledge our collection sites, which are community agencies that are deeply committed to bettering the lives of people who use drugs, have existing and trusting relationships with people who use drugs, and truly understand what it means to provide care and reduce harm, including Casey House (Toronto) | DIY Community Health (Timmins) | Fourcast Consumption and Treatment Service (Peterborough) | Fred Victor (Toronto) | Integrated Care Hub (Kingston) | NorWest Community Health Centres (Thunder Bay) | Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre: Parkdale site (Toronto) | South Riverdale Community Health Centre: Moss Park site (Toronto) | Street Health (Toronto) | The Neighbourhood Group: Kensington Market Overdose Prevention Site (Toronto) | Toronto Shelter and Support Services: Harm Reduction Unit (Toronto).

We acknowledge that almost all of our samples have been collected by supervised consumption sites. We acknowledge the collection sites lost by our program due to the closure of their supervised consumption service: Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre: Queen West site (Toronto) | Regent Park Community Health Centre (Toronto) | South Riverdale Community Health Centre: KeepSix site (Toronto) | The Works at Toronto Public Health (Toronto).

Contact us: A small central team operates from within the Drug Checking Unit at MAP Centre for Urban Health Solutions, Unity Health Toronto. **We are committed to ensuring our public health and safety program adds value to the communities it serves. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback, please get in touch.**

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