

THE FACTS



GABAPENTIN

PREGABALIN

PREGABALIN AND GABAPENTIN – THE FACTS

WHAT ARE PREGABALIN AND GABAPENTIN?

They were originally used to treat epilepsy. They are also licenced to treat nerve pain and some types of anxiety.

WHY DO WE WORRY ABOUT IT?

- Use of these drugs can lead to dependence.
- Pregabalin and Gabapentin can cause drowsiness, sedation, slow down breathing, and in extreme cases death.
- There are particular issues in secure settings where deaths have been found to involve illicit and/or diverted medication.

WHAT TO BE AWARE OF...

- Deaths involving Pregabalin or Gabapentin have increased drastically in the last 5 years, 89% of these are associated with opiate use.
- Opiates & Pregabalin together slow down breathing further.
Naloxone does not reverse respiratory depression caused by Pregabalin/Gabapentin.

WHAT USERS ARE SAYING:

"There is more chance for overdose if you take heroin and Pregabalin together because Pregabalin takes, like, two/three hours to kick in. So, like, and then we think 'argh it hasn't kicked in, oh I'll have a dig', so we have a dig and then that kicks in, and then there's more chance of you going over."

"They're like zombies; they don't know what they're doing... Pregabalin does make people feel like a zombie."

"Don't like 'em... I woke up just feeling like jelly, didn't know what happened."

"That's one of my last overdoses. I knew the heroin was strong and I didn't know, I was naïve."

(CONTROLLED DRUGS

- Prescription drugs pregabalin and gabapentin are to be reclassified as class C controlled substances from **April 2019**.

REMEMBER THE S.M. SERVICE IS HERE TO HELP