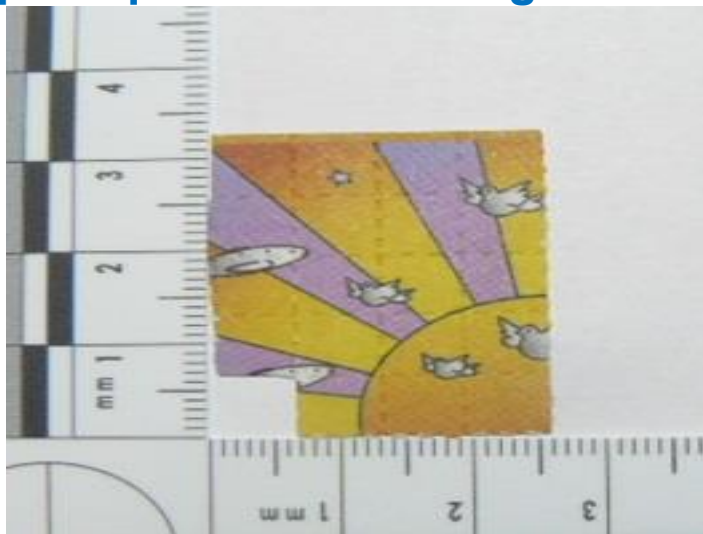


‘Blotter Art’ sold as LSD

Police Scotland are investigating a small number of reported incidents involving serious adverse effects from taking ‘tabs’ perceived to be LSD. More frequently paper squares or ‘blotter art’ tabs perceived to be LSD are being found to contain other drugs including 2Ci or NBOMe. This increases the potential for adverse effect.

‘Paper squares’ containing 25-NBOMe



The ‘blues’ (illicit tablets) market

Tablets being sold as diazepam continue to cause serious health issues. There are many different types of tablets in circulation which are perceived to be ‘blues’ regardless of their colour. Blue, yellow and white are the most common colours and there are a variety of logos stamped on them with some having no logo at all. Common markings are D10 and some tablets have a half-score mark on one side. There was a recent spate of tablets called ‘baby blues’ circulating in the Glasgow area and they were very small blue pills with MSJ stamped on them which had diazepam in the examples recovered. There was another small blue poorly made tablet with no markings (see photo below) which were found to contain clonazepam. Other tablets containing clonazepam were blue with a lighter colour line round the circumference.

The ‘blues’ market highlights that users often don’t know what they are taking. A further example is the identification of norfludiazepam an uncontrolled drug, within a light blue coloured pill.

Etizolam is still prevalent within tablets however it is clear that since its regulation as a controlled drug, those involved in the illegal production of ‘blues’ are constantly striving to find a substitute product with no regard for the wellbeing of the end user.

Drug Trend Bulletin

Norfludiazepam



'Baby blues' – clonazepam

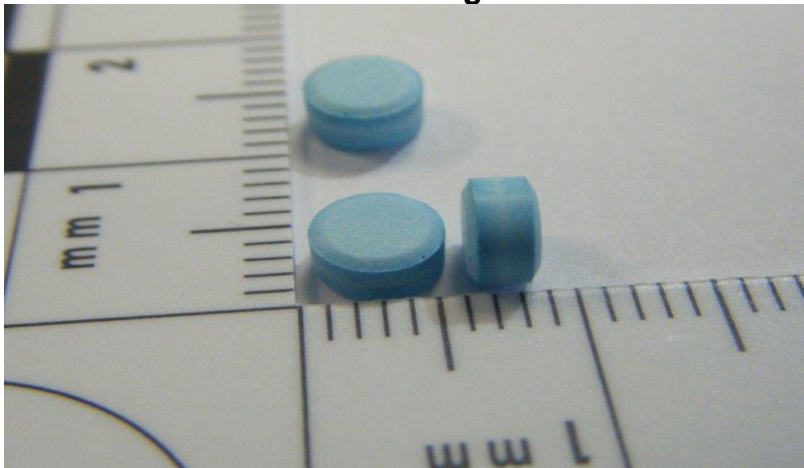


Drug Trend Bulletin

In this batch of tablets, some contained Phenazepam and others the steroid drug Methandrostenolone



Blue tablets containing clonazepam



Zopiclone tablets



Drug Trend Bulletin

Xanax

There is a further complication in the 'street level' pills market as the availability of Xanax tablets increases. The most common tablets are the white rectangular tablets which would normally indicate a 2mg dose however there is always the potential for other drugs to be present and fluctuation in the drug content. Xanax should normally contain alprazolam which is a Class 'C' controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. One batch of Xanax tablets was found to contain alprazolam and lidocaine which is an indication of illicit product. Xanax tablets are not prescribed therefore diversion from prescription is unlikely. Police investigations are focusing on illicit production, internet transactions and distribution via the postal system.



Fentanyl

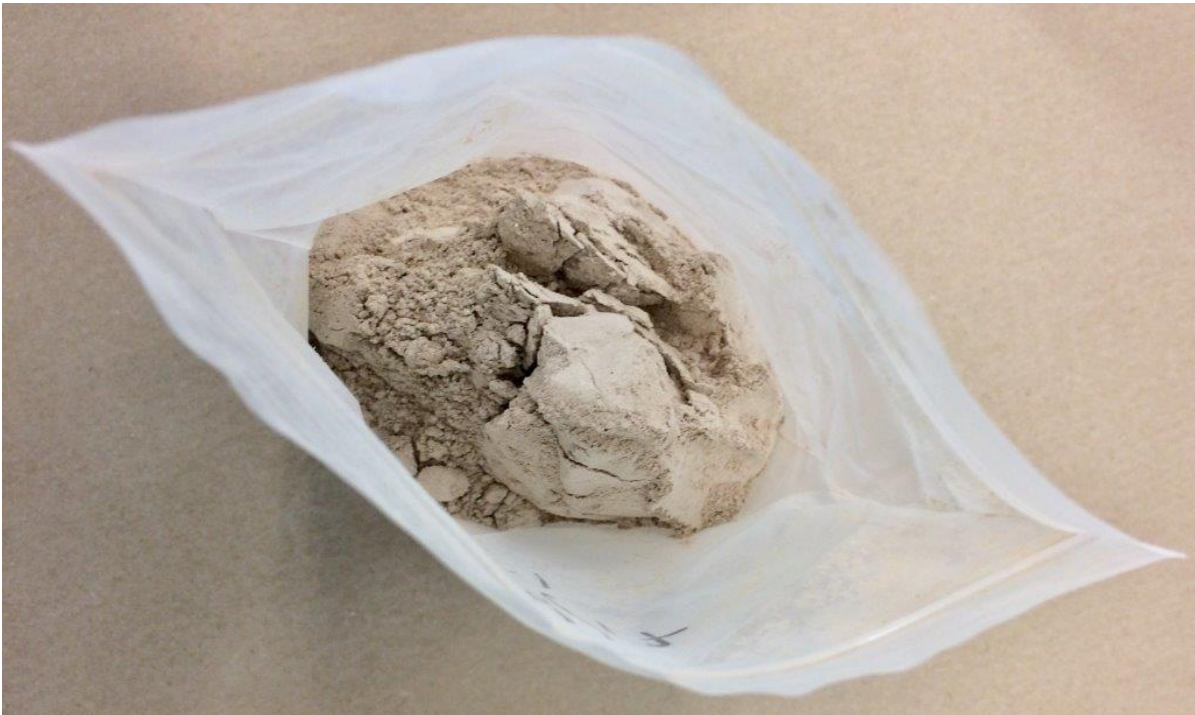
The dangers of fentanyl and associated drugs have been widely reported in the media and cannot be understated. At this time fentanyl use is generally confined to niche markets in Scotland with limited availability. There has been a small number of incidents in Scotland where the presence of fentanyl has been identified. Drug users appear to recognise that the dangers of fentanyl outweigh its use as a drug of choice. At this time there is no information to suggest fentanyl has become a 'mainstream' product in the illicit drugs market in Scotland.

Drug Trend Bulletin

Heroin

The most common heroin adulterant is a mixture of paracetamol and caffeine toasted brown (known as bash) which produces an end product that looks like heroin. Heroin is being routinely adulterated reducing its street level purity which is currently assessed to be approximately 15% with geographical variations.

Paracetamol and caffeine mix used as an adulterant for heroin



Green 'ecstasy' type tablets containing 4-MDMC

The images below are of a green tablet which would be perceived to be ecstasy. Forensic analysis identified the drug content as 4-MDMC.



Drug Trend Bulletin

Recent ecstasy tablet designs

Nespresso ecstasy tablets



777 and WIN logo ecstasy tablets



The images shown are of recent ecstasy tablet designs recovered by Police Scotland. There are a variety of designs in circulation and the current trend is for well-made tablets to contain a large dose of MDMA. As always tablets are occasionally found to contain other drugs and in particular substances being sold as MDMA crystal can contain other problematic drugs.

Pill design containing 2CB



Ace of Spades ecstasy tablet



Drug Trend Bulletin

Cocaine

It is assessed that the street level purity of cocaine is gradually increasing and there are signs of the three tier market being replaced by a two tier purity level. In recent years the three tiers involved street level purity, mid-range purity and good quality cocaine. Current trends indicate the middle market is fading and cocaine dealers are targeting users with either lower purity street level cocaine up to approximately 25% pure or high quality cocaine up to approximately 75% pure. Current pricing structures reflect this trend with street level purity cocaine selling for approximately £40 per gram in comparison with anything from £80-£100 and more for good quality depending on purity such is the demand.

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