

Overdose and Poisoning (Adults)

Table 3.69

Illegal Drugs *continued*

<p>DRUG Aphetamines (Aphetamines, Methamphetamine) Commonly known as: Bennies, Billy Whizz, Black Beauties, Bumblebees, Clear Rocks, Co-pilots, Crank, Croke, Glass, LA Turnarounds, Mollies, Oranges, Pep Pills, Pink Champagne, Pink Speed, Bombs, Rippers, Rocks, Speed, Splash, Sulph, Sulphate, Wake Ups, Whizz.</p>	<p>DESCRIPTION Aphetamines developed in the 1930s and have been medically prescribed in the past for diet control and as a stimulant.</p> <p>OUTWARD SIGNS Mood swings, extreme hunger, sleeplessness, and hyperactivity.</p> <p>EFFECTS Increases energy levels, confidence and sociability.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATION They can be: swallowed, sniffed or rarely injected. Onset approximately 30 minutes. Lasts for several hours. Used with other drugs or alcohol, the effects are magnified.</p> <p>SIDE EFFECTS Cardiovascular<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Tachycardia can lead to heart failure even in healthy individuals (refer to cardiac rhythm disturbance guideline).● Hypertension can produce pinpoint haemorrhages in skin, especially on the face and even lead to stroke.Central nervous system:<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 'High' feelings, panic, paranoia can produce mental illness picture in long-term use, poor sleep, hyperpyrexia.Gastrointestinal<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Liver failure.<p>TREATMENT<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Vital signs – monitor pulse, blood pressure, cardiac rhythm.● Agitation – seek medical advice for consideration of diazepam use for severe agitation.● Convulsions – refer to convulsions guideline.● Cardiac rhythm disturbance – narrow-complex tachycardia with cardiac output is best left untreated.● Hypertension – if systolic BP >220 and diastolic BP >140 mmHg in the absence of longstanding hypertension – seek medical advice.● Hypotension – correct hypotension by raising the foot of the trolley and/or the administration of intravascular fluid – refer to intravascular fluid guideline.● Hyperthermia – rapid transfer to hospital; cooling measures may be undertaken en-route – refer to heat related illness guideline.</p></p>
<p>DRUG Opiates (Heroin, Diamorphine, Methadone- Amidone, Dolophine, Methadose).</p>	<p>DESCRIPTION Methadone is a synthetic opiate commonly used in the treatment of heroin addiction.</p> <p>OUTWARD SIGNS Withdrawal symptoms: Sweating, shivering, muscle cramps, lacrimation.</p> <p>EFFECTS Reduce physical and psychological pain – relieving anxiety. The effects of Methadone are less intense.</p> <p>ADMINISTRATION Injected, snorted or smoked.</p> <p>SIDE EFFECTS Cardiovascular system Damage to veins and lungs. Infection. It is likely that babies are born underweight.</p> <p>TREATMENT Refer to Table 3.68 for management.</p>