

Fake Pills are Increasing in BC

Counterfeit pills are **fake pills** that are made to look like prescription medications.

In 2024, **1 in 4 pills*** checked in BC had unexpected ingredients including fentanyl and benzodiazepines, which can increase the risk of drug poisoning/overdose.

Fake pills sold on the streets and online commonly appear as oxycodone, alprazolam (Xanax), hydromorphone (Dilaudid), Percocet, or amphetamine (Adderall).

It can be impossible to tell if a pill is fake

Any pill could be fake if you didn't get it from a pharmacy yourself.

Fake pills can look exactly like real medications.

Fake pills are sometimes found in re-used packaging from real medications.

Even the person selling or giving you the pills may not know they are fake.



(authentic/fake oxycodone). Image source: US Department of Justice, "Authentic-Fake_0" 2021.

Fake pills increase the risk of overdose

You **never really know** what or how much of a drug is in a fake pill.

Even if you have used opioid pills before, you are still at risk of drug poisoning (overdose).

It's safest to only use pills prescribed to you

For help reducing or stopping your use, find resources at helpstartshere.gov.bc.ca.

If you are going to use pills, **use harm reduction** to reduce the risk from fake pills.



Test your
drugs



Check drug
alerts



Have Naloxone
and know how to
use it



Use with
someone
you trust



Don't use at the same
time so you can help
each other



Start
low, go
slow

*<https://www.ccsa.ca/sites/default/files/2024-11/CCENDU-Newsletter-Issue-1-en.pdf>