



Milwaukee County

Office of Emergency Management

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NUMBERED NOTICE

Number: 18-06
Date: July 5, 2018
From: M. Riccardo Colella, DO, MPH, FACEP
Section: EMS
To: All Milwaukee County EMS System Providers
Subject: Synthetic Cannabinoids
Purpose: Advisory

Milwaukee County and other communities across Wisconsin have seen a recent increase in cases of severe bleeding among people who have used synthetic cannabinoids; at least five deaths are reported nationally. These synthetic cannabinoids have been contaminated with brodifacoum, a rat poison with bleeding risks similar to warfarin. Common street names for some synthetic cannabinoids include K2 or Spice.

Screen for synthetic cannabinoid use in patients experiencing bleeding including nosebleeds, bleeding of the gums, bruising, vomiting blood, blood in urine or stool, or excessively heavy menstrual bleeding; treat symptomatic patients per protocol and always encourage transport to an emergency department for further testing and management.

Please review this informative website:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/synthetic-cannabinoids.htm>