



Synthetic Drugs: What a Patient Needs to Know

Synthetic drugs are known by numerous names (Spice, bath salts, K2, and Molly to name a few), and are legally sold in the community as incense or other products “not meant for human consumption” but have an alternate use to produce a high similar to that felt when using marijuana, amphetamines or LSD. The problem is that each batch of these drugs contains different chemicals meaning each batch can produce different effects some of which can be **life-threatening**.

The user of this type of drug is **very likely** to have **serious side-effects**. As a patient in a correctional setting, you need to be aware of these dangerous substances and know to stay away from them at all costs should the opportunity present itself for you to use such a drug while in a jail or prison.

People who use this type of drug can have any of the following symptoms after only one use:

- Seizures (violent, uncontrolled movements)
- Tremors
- Unconsciousness
- Vomiting
- Hallucinations (seeing, feeling or hearing things that are not really there)
- Paranoia (potentially resulting in violent attacks or even suicide attempts)
- Numbness/tingling
- Anxiety and panic attacks
- Aggression
- Headache
- Inability to speak
- **DEATH**

If you encounter a fellow resident with any of the symptoms above and have reason to suspect that there is the possibility that they could have recently used synthetic drugs, then medical personnel should be alerted right away. Doing this could save a life!