



Health Alert

from

the Orange County Health Department

July 21, 2015

Please share with the providers in your practice.

The NC Department of Public Health is investigating 18 cases of illness due to use of heroin mixed with clenbuterol in Durham and adjacent counties.

Recommended Actions: Providers should consider illness due to heroin mixed with clenbuterol in any patient who reports recent heroin use (any route) and presents with hypokalemia, tachycardia, palpitations, or elevated white blood cell count without other symptoms suggestive of withdrawal.

For potential cases, all healthcare providers and clinical office staff are encouraged to take the following steps:

- Test for clenbuterol by sending urine to NMS Labs and ordering test NMS 9306U (anabolic steroid screen).
- Call the Carolinas Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222 to seek assistance with management.
- Notify your local health department
 - Orange County
 - During regular working hours, call 919-245-2400 and ask for a Communicable Disease Nurse
 - Afterhours call 911 and ask that the person on call for the Health Department be notified

Please remember, the Orange County Health Department has Naloxone kits available for IV drug users and persons concerned about an IV drug user in their life. The kits are free and include one-on-one instruction on use. To get a kit, a person would need to call 919-245-2400 for an appointment.