

<b>Reference:</b>	FOI.18278.25
<b>Subject:</b>	Nitazene test strips
<b>Date of Request:</b>	3 September 2025

**Requested:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information regarding nitazene test strips provided through Hywel Dda University Health Board and/or DDAS (Dyfed Drug & Alcohol Service):

1. On what date did Hywel Dda UHB/DDAS first make nitazene test strips available in its area?
2. How many nitazene test strips have been distributed since that date, broken down by year?
3. Please provide details of all methods of public communication or advertising used to inform the public and service users about the availability of nitazene test strips (e.g. social media posts, posters, press releases, GP/pharmacy distribution, website updates).
4. Please provide any internal or external guidance documents relating to the distribution of nitazene test strips within Hywel Dda.

I would prefer to receive the information in electronic format.

**Response:**

1. Hywel Dda University Health Board (UHB) can inform you that the Dyfed Drug & Alcohol Service (DDAS) made Nitazene tests available in June 2024.
2. The UHB can inform you that DDAS have recorded that they have distributed forty (40) Nitazene test strips between June 2024 and August 2025. DDAS do not hold an annual breakdown of the number of Nitazene test strips distributed, as they were only recently introduced.
3. The UHB can inform you that an article was issued by Barod, who are the lead organisation within the DDAS consortium, around the use of Nitazenes.

The following article was issued when Nitazenes became an emerging threat, informing people on what to do in the event of an overdose.

- [Drugs contaminated with synthetic opioids: an updated collective message - Barod](#)

In addition to this, Barod hosted a webinar around the use of Nitazenes which is available online, alongside an information video. For ease, a link to both the webinar and the information video are provided below.

- [Nitazenes Webinar](#)
- [Nitazenes](#).

Furthermore, the UHB can inform you that DDAS discuss the use of Nitazenes with people who access their services, informing them of the risks of Nitazenes and their potential potency. The harm reduction advice given regarding Nitazenes is as follows:

- Always carry Naloxone,
  - Even if you don't use opioids still carry Naloxone as some samples of other substances have been found to contain Nitazenes,
  - Carry extra Naloxone as in some cases it has taken multiple doses to reverse an overdose due to the potency of the Nitazene,
  - Don't use alone,
  - Check your drugs using Nitazene testing strips and wedinos,
  - Start low and go slow – wait for the effects to pass,
  - Overdose response – administer naloxone and call an ambulance,
  - Seek substitute medication and other prescribing support.
4. The UHB can inform you that it does not have an internal or external guidance document around the distribution of Nitazene test strips. DDAS is awaiting national guidance around the distribution of Nitazene test strips, which once published will be adopted locally.