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HEALTH ALERT NETWORK BROADCAST

MESSAGE ID: 04242018 14:00

FROM: CO-CDPHE

SUBJECT: HAN Advisory – Vitamin K Dependent Antagonist Coagulopathy Associated with Synthetic Cannabinoid Use

RECIPIENTS: Local Public Health Agencies / EDs / Coroners

**HEALTH ADVISORY** | Vitamin K-Dependent Antagonist Coagulopathy Associated with
 Synthetic Cannabinoid Use | April 24, 2018

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| **Key points*** CDC is coordinating an investigation of a multi-state outbreak of Vitamin K-dependent antagonist coagulopathy associated with synthetic cannabinoids use.
* Testing has confirmed brodifacoum (long-acting anticoagulant rodenticide) exposure in some patients and some synthetic cannabinoid samples.
* Exposed patients may experience life-threatening coagulopathy associated with use of synthetic cannabinoids.
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**Background information**

Since March 7, 2018, multiple states have identified more than 100 cases of Vitamin K-dependent antagonist coagulopathy associated with synthetic cannabinoid use. Laboratory testing has confirmed brodifacoum (a long-acting anticoagulant rodenticide) exposure in at least 30 patients and the presence of brodifacoum in at least seven synthetic cannabinoid product samples. The vast majority have occurred in Illinois or have reported using a synthetic cannabinoid product obtained in Illinois. A few cases do not have a clear link to Illinois. To date, there have not been any cases reported in Colorado.

Patients may experience life-threatening coagulopathy associated with use of synthetic cannabinoids, also known as “K2,” “spice,” “synthetic marijuana,” and “legal weed,” among other names. These clinical signs and symptoms have included bruising, bleeding, blood in urine or stool, and back or flank pain, particularly near the kidneys. Other signs and symptoms have included altered mental status, fainting, loss of consciousness, and collapse.

**Recommendations**

* For consultation on managing possible cases of Vitamin K-dependent antagonist coagulopathy associated with synthetic cannabinoids use, contact the Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Center: (24-hour hotline) 1-800-222-1222.
* Report suspected cases of Vitamin K-dependent antagonist coagulopathy associated with synthetic cannabinoid use to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:
	+ Use the “Environmental Disease Reporting Form” at<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/report-a-disease>
* For questions:
	+ Daytime: 303-692-2700
	+ After hours: 303-370-9395
	+ Email: CDPHE\_IDRP@state.co.us

**For more information**

CDC topic page on synthetic cannabinoids: [https:/www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/chemicals/sc/healthcare.html](https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/chemicals/sc/healthcare.html)

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