

XANAX – advice to parents



Xanax (Xanies) are part of the **Benzodiazepine** group of drugs and are prescribed for a number of issues such as severe anxiety, panic attacks and some sleeping disorders. They are a very potent sedative drug. These drugs (only available on private prescription but sourced on the dark web and some oversea websites) are causing a real concern. There have allegedly now been over 300 deaths directly linked with XANAX and it would appear that many of these deaths are as a result of XANAX being used with significant amounts of Alcohol. **We are aware that Xanax is available to young people in the Fleet area and that it is inexpensive.**

Symptoms of Xanax overdose may include:

- drowsiness
- confusion
- impaired coordination
- reduced reflexes
- coma
- death

People who overdose on Xanax alone may experience mild drowsiness with normal or near normal vital signs. A Benzodiazepine overdose may also lead to slurred speech and altered mental state. People who experience difficulty breathing after taking too much Xanax are likely to have taken the drug with other central nervous system (CNS) depressants or **alcohol**. Unfortunately when young people are out with their friends and get into this state, they are sometimes left behind as they are too drowsy and confused to keep up with the crowd. This can leave them extremely vulnerable to accidents or abuse. **An ex- Court Moor student fell in the canal under the influence of Xanax and was fortunately pulled out by a friend – but that story could have had a very different ending.**

Fake XANAX are particularly dangerous because any potential user will not know what it has been 'cut/bulked' with and this itself can be a major issue.

Fake XANAX have some quite distinctive features:

1. The word 'XANAX' on the fake tablets are very faint and not as embedded as with the real tablets (See image above)
2. The tablets will appear to be very 'brittle and crumbly' around the edges, a simple rub of the thumb on the edge of the tablet will cause the tablet to crumble very easily (not like the real tablets).
3. Colours –fake XANAX have been seen in White, Dark Green and Red the latter two would and should raise suspicions immediately.