

# Spice Warning

March 2017.

## Information about recent incidents involving 'Spice' in Manchester

### Spice in Manchester

- **Spice is a nickname for a herbal smoking mixture containing one or more of a group of drugs called synthetic cannabinoids.**
- There are hundreds of different synthetic cannabinoids, some are more potent, more toxic and more dangerous than others.
- Two samples of Spice from Manchester City Centre have been tested. Both contained a synthetic cannabinoid called **AMB FUBINACA**.

**AMB FUBINACA is very potent and very toxic drug and caused a 'zombie like' condition and led to 33 overdoses in one area of the United States in 2016.**

**Don't start using Spice: 8 people died last year after smoking Spice.** There is no safe way of using this addictive and extremely dangerous drug. However, if you are using the following advice may reduce risks.

### Harm reduction advice

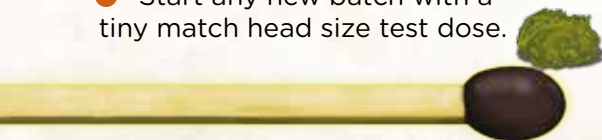
- Sit down before you smoke Spice as you may lose your balance, fall over or pass out.
- Spice is potent even at very low doses.
- Don't smoke Spice neat, always mix with tobacco.
- Start any new batch with a tiny match head size test dose.

### Help available in Manchester

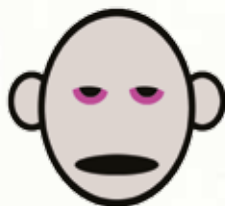
- There are various treatments for Spice users including medically assisted withdrawal.

For over 18s, **CGL**,  
43A Carnarvon Street,  
**Telephone 0161 214 0770.**

For young people (under 18)  
**Eclypse**, 102 Oldham Street,  
**Telephone 0161 839 2054.**



# Dealing with a Spice overdose



Although effects can look disturbing in the vast majority of cases people smoking Spice will not require emergency treatment, however:

- **If in doubt**

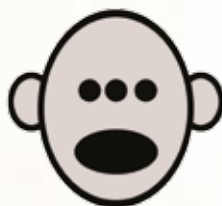
**Call an ambulance.**



- **Overheating:** If they are flushed and skin feels very hot ( $+ 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) Rest and cool. Use damp cloth on skin and drink water. If not settling after about 5 minutes: **Call an ambulance.**



- **Breathing difficulties,** such as fast or shallow breathing, not settling within 5 minutes. **Call an ambulance.**



- **Bad trips:** If someone is hallucinating, paranoid or anxious, take them somewhere quiet where they feel safe.

**Calm and reassure them.**



- **If they have chest pains:** sit them down in a calm environment and reassure them. **Call an ambulance.**

- **Unconsciousness:** It can be risky to startle or frighten people intoxicated on Spice as this can lead to heart failure. If they can't be woken by gentle shaking and calling; make sure they are lying on their side so they don't choke on vomit and **Call an ambulance.**



- **Seizures (fits):** Ensure the area is safe and there is nothing they could hurt themselves on. Don't hold people down as this is dangerous:

**Call an ambulance.**



- **Other concerns:** e.g. severe vomiting, frothing at mouth, severe headache, significant agitation or aggression, not settling within 15 minutes.

**Call an ambulance.**

**Look after people who have overdosed in the same way you would want them to look after you.**