

## Situational Awareness:

# Heroin Disguised as Oxycodone



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(U//FOUO) NJ ROIC Fusion Liaison & Intelligence Training Unit ~ ROIC201407-02558F

### HEROIN TABLETS IN NEW JERSEY

(U//FOUO) Forensic drug analysis has confirmed the first known instance of heroin in tablet form in New Jersey. The photo below on the left shows the seized heroin tablets disguised as Oxycodone. The photo below on the right shows an actual Oxycodone tablet in a 30mg dosage. These counterfeit prescription drugs could lead to more opiate overdoses within your jurisdiction.



New Jersey Heroin Seizure



Pharmaceutical Oxycodone 30mg

### SEIZURE

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The heroin tablets were discovered by authorities responding to a found CDS complaint in June of this year. The tablets were submitted to a forensic laboratory for analysis, which revealed that the major component of the seized tablets was heroin (diacetylmorphine).

### APPEARANCE

(U//FOUO) The seized heroin tablets are blue and bear a capital “A” over a horizontal scored line with the numbers “215” below the line. These are the same color and markings as those found on some actual 30mg Oxycodone tablets. In this case, the markings appear to be less clearly defined on the heroin tablets, and there appear to be more pronounced particles of darker material on the heroin tablets as compared to actual Oxycodone tablets.

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## **HEROIN TABLETS IN OTHER STATES**

*(U//FOUO)* In April 2013, a couple was arrested in New Hampshire after police found 84 blue tablets marked “M 30” that the New Hampshire State Laboratory initially tested for Oxycodone before discovering the tablets actually contained heroin. Police also found brown heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, methadone, paraphernalia, and scales in the apartment. In that case, the heroin tablets were noted to be off color compared to actual Oxycodone tablets, and the markings were not as crisp as the actual tablets.

## **IMPLICATIONS FOR NEW JERSEY AND THE REGION**

*(U//FOUO)* The distribution of illicit drugs sold as prescription drugs is particularly dangerous. Disguising heroin tablets as Oxycodone could cause those seeking to obtain prescription drugs illegally to accidentally overdose on heroin. At this time, it is not known whether the heroin tablets are being marketed as Oxycodone or whether the tablets are known to be heroin by users who are seeking to avoid detection. It is also not known whether heroin tablets are being disguised as other types of prescription opiates or whether other adulterants are being combined with heroin in tablet form. Law enforcement and health care providers should be alert to the possibility that what appears to be legitimate prescription drugs, specifically Oxycodone, may actually be heroin.

## **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION**

*(U//FOUO)* The NJ ROIC Fusion Liaison & Intelligence Training Unit is seeking additional information to assess impact and implications for NJ concerning this topic in furtherance of the Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI). Any recipient with further information is requested to contact the NJ ROIC Fusion Liaison & Intelligence Training Unit at: [ROICOutreach@gw.njsp.org](mailto:ROICOutreach@gw.njsp.org), by fax to 609-530-4174 or by calling 609-963-6900 ext. 6273 or 2044.

*(U//FOUO)* Through the DMI, the State Police Regional Crime Labs will facilitate expedited forensic analysis to assist investigators and health care professionals during emergent situations. Any law enforcement agency requiring expedited analysis of suspected drug specimens involved in overdoses should contact the NJ ROIC Fusion Liaison & Intelligence Training Unit at: [ROICOutreach@gw.njsp.org](mailto:ROICOutreach@gw.njsp.org), by fax to 609-530-4174 or by calling 609-963-6900 ext. 6273 or 2044.