

The California State Board of Pharmacy provides this important alert and reminder to licensees about the drug xylazine.

Xylazine hydrochloride is a prescription animal drug that is FDA-approved for veterinary use. There are no FDA-approved or authorized human uses for xylazine.

According to the [Office of National Drug Control Policy](#), xylazine is a substance not meant for human consumption and it is particularly harmful in combination with fentanyl. While currently uncommon in the California illicit drug supply, it is typically distributed for human use in combination with illicit fentanyl and is associated with significant and rapidly worsening negative health consequences, including fatal overdoses and severe morbidity (including deep flesh wounds).

The United State Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Homeland Security in September 2023 [jointly](#) identified improper diversion from veterinary supply chains and mispackaging as two key ways xylazine intended for illicit human use enters the United States. Similarly, the Food and Drug Administration issued an [Import Alert](#) in August 2023 relating to this product.

The California State Board of Pharmacy reminds licensees that xylazine is a dangerous drug that may be transferred, sold, delivered, or furnished only to an end user with a prescription, a manufacturer, Pharmacy Board licensee, veterinarian, or other person or entity authorized by law to receive dangerous drugs. (Business and Professions Code §§ 4059, 4059.5, 4126.5.) The Board may inspect all records of the manufacture, sale, acquisition, receipt, shipment, or disposition of xylazine, and such records must be preserved for at least three years. (Business and Professions Code §§ 4081, 4105.) Licensees who violate laws relating to dangerous drugs are subject to discipline, including potential revocation of their license.

The Board also encourages licensees to keep apprised of the issues surrounding xylazine available from the [California Department of Public Health](#).