

The Euro-DEN Project

Guidelines on when to call the Emergency Services 999 for unwell recreational drug users

Call 999 if ANY one of the following is present:

- Unconsciousness – if the patient does not respond to vocal commands, requires painful stimulus (e.g. pressure across the fingernails) to respond or does not respond at all
- Significant agitation (e.g. pacing around the room) or aggression not settling within 15 minutes
- Seizures (e.g. a convulsion similar to an epileptic fit)
- Breathing difficulties, such as fast breathing rate, not settling within 5 minutes
- Heart rate over 140 beats per minute not settling within 5 minutes
- Temperature over 38.5°C not settling after about 5 minutes of rest, or if very flushed and feels very hot if no thermometer is available
- Blood pressure: Systolic (“upper pressure”) over 180mmHg, or Diastolic (“lower pressure”) over 110mmHg on 2 repeated blood pressure measurements
- If there are any other concerns (e.g. severe headache, chest pain)

IF IN DOUBT CALL 999!



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