

# ALERT!



**U4** is a synthetic opioid drug roughly eight times stronger than morphine. Short for U-47700, U4 is sometimes called "Pinky" or "Pink". U4 belongs to a deadly family of synthetic drugs that includes other lethal substances like carfentanil and fentanyl. U4 is often imported to the United States, usually from illicit labs in China.

There is some speculation that the nickname "Pinky" comes from a method of ingesting the drug, where users snort the drug off of the outgrown fingernail of their pinky finger. Or, the name "Pink" may be due to a pinkish hue that U4 powder sometimes has. According to many sources, however, "Pink" is typically more white in appearance than anything else. It is generally a chalky white color in the form of tablets or powder. It is possible that dyes, impurities or differences in the manufacturing process may sometimes give U4 a pinkish hue. Some websites claim that "Pink" and "Pinky" are nicknames given to the drug by law enforcement and that users don't refer to it by those names.

Regardless of what it is called, U-47700 is toxic—so toxic that even tiny amounts can lead to fatal overdoses. Also, because U4 is illegal and unregulated, it is impossible for users of the drug to know exactly what is in it, how pure it is, or how potent.

Sedation, severe respiratory depression, rectal bleeding, and severe nerve damage are just some of the possible side effects of using U4. Healthcare workers have been alarmed by its potency and it has been responsible for numerous overdose deaths across several states.

U4 can be taken by itself, but often it is combined with other drugs such as heroin or fentanyl. It is not unusual for U4 to be used as a filler or substitute for other drugs. Law enforcement agencies report seizures of the drug in powder form and counterfeit tablets that mimic pharmaceutical opioids. It can be pressed into pill format and falsely marketed as a wide variety of prescription opioid drugs. Some bags of U4 have been seen stamped with logos, imitating heroin packaging in a heroin sale.

The risks of buying drugs off of the street or from disreputable sites on the internet cannot be overstated. There is no way to know for sure what is really in these drugs or how strong they are. Even if they look like legit versions of prescription opioids, drugs obtained illegally can contain deadly mixtures of U4 and/or any number of other dangerous substances.

The originators of U-47700 were well-intentioned. Created by chemists at a large pharmaceutical company in the 1970's, U-47700 was supposed

to be a more potent but less addictive alternative to morphine for the treatment of severe pain. But it was never tested on or approved for humans.

U4 was essentially forgotten until clandestine foreign labs found publicly accessible instructions for U-47700 and began recreating it. There were no substantial legal restrictions on the import or sale of U4 in the United States until November 2016 when the DEA took emergency action to temporarily classify U-47700 as a Schedule 1 drug. This makes it illegal and classifies it as a dangerous substance with a high potential for abuse and no approved medical use. ☹️

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