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### **The approach to the management of acute recreational drug toxicity with an unknown agent**

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The range of recreational drugs and new psychoactive substances (NPS) available and being used has increased significantly over the last decade. The majority of these newer substances are chemically very similar to existing substances, with small changes made to circumvent existing national and international drug control legislation. Clinicians working in both pre-hospital and hospital settings feel less confident in assessing and managing individuals who present to them following the use of recreational drugs and/or NPS that they have not previously heard of. However, these newer substances often present with patterns of toxicity very similar to those seen with existing recreational drugs that they feel confident in managing. This presentation will outline the broad categories of acute toxicity seen when individuals present with acute recreational drug / NPS toxicity which are based on the clinical symptoms and signs that individuals experience. Based on these categories, we will then review how to approach the initial assessment and management of patients with acute recreational drug/NPS toxicity. This will enable a clinician to be able to understand how to manage a patient presenting to them with acute toxicity following the use of a substance that either they or the patient is not sure exactly what it is.