

# Gabapentin Questionnaire

## People Who Use Drugs Views!

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# Gabapentin

The survey was carried out by Naloxone Peer Educators on behalf of the Harms Group. 41 individuals completed a short questionnaire (10 Minutes) in a number of different locations e.g. Recovery communities, cafes, meetings etc.

Identified in the work below are broad themes that will require further exploration.

# Q1

- Are you / or anyone you know currently prescribed gabapentin?
- 19 people answered yes to this question  
46%

## Q2

- Who prescribes it? E.g. GP, Addiction Service, Specialist Pain Clinic
- 58% answered GP as being the prescriber of Gabapentin, Other answers stated don't know or were left blank.

## Q3

- Do you /or anyone you know ever take gabapentin in a way which was not prescribed? E.g. Taking more at once
- 25 people confirmed that they took Gabapentin in a way which was different to prescribing advice.

## Q4

- Do you /or anyone you know take illicit/street gabapentin?
- 53% of people reported taking illicit/street Gabapentin

## Q5

- Does “street” gabapentin look the same as prescribed drugs?
- 54% said “street” and prescribed gabapentin look the same, 41% answered Don’t Know, There was two individual 5% who never answered this question and chose not to elaborate any further.

## Q6

- What would you say are the common amounts people take illicitly?
- The most common amounts taken ranged from 3-10 x300mg in one go, but there was also higher doses of around 10-20x 300mg and 20-30x 150mg all reported using this range of dose on a daily basis.
- There was 39% who reported using in excess of 3000mg daily, 29% reported using 1500mg or less daily. 13 people 32% stated they would take as many as they could get on the day.



## Q7

- What is the average cost and purchased amount?
- Prices ranged from £1 x300mg to £1.50 x300mg, 59% paid £1.50 x300mg however this was reduced when they were bought in blister packs £10 x per tray.
- The strength of each capsule in trays was not specified but most participants were referring to 300mg doses (one participant did note paying £2 x per 300mg capsule).

## Q8

- What are the common ways for people to take these?  
E.g., Swallow, Snort, Inject
- Thirty Two of the participants reported taking Gabapentin orally 78%,
- Seven participants reported snorting them 17%.

NOTE Two people reported injecting them 5%. ( on discussion with the peer who carried out one of the interviews regarding the injecting of Gabapentin, the peer informed me that the individual was of the nature were they would have tried to inject anything) quote” I will jag anything if I can”

# Q9

- What effects do people experience?

The experiences that people reported had a wide range as can be imagined, however the common themes are...

- Desirable?  
Sleepy, gouchy, chilled out, laid back, relaxed
- Undesirable?  
Withdrawal pains. Not sleeping, Dry mouth, agitated, nausea

# Q10

- How long do these effects last?

Answers ranged from 8-12 hrs 24%

12-24 hrs 15% Four people noted that

effects could last for upto 2 days 10%, 18 people answered I don't know or not sure

51%.

# Q11

- Do people commonly take these with other drugs? Yes was answered by 66% of participants. If so which drugs?
- The average amount of drugs people reported taking along with the gabapentin was three, the most common drug reported.
- 44% Valium , 46% Heroin, 39 % Methadone. (It was not stated whether the methadone was prescribed or illicit)
- Six drugs including gabapentin were the highest reportedly used by one individual all of them were illicit.

## Q12

- What do you think are the main risks to people of using gabapentin and other drugs together?
- 51% reported overdose as being the main risk of mixing gabapentin with other drugs and 15% also mentioned death as a risk.
- 12% answered don't know. 9 People never answered 22%.

# Thank You

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