Updated October 2026

Health Alert: Temporary Scheduling of Three Synthetic Kratom Related Substances as Schedule I Under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA)

Background

On September 25, 2026, the New Jersey Attorney General announced that three synthetic Kratom related substances – mitragynine pseudoindoxyl (MP), MGM-15, and MGM-16 including their isomers, esters, ethers, and salts – are now illegal to possess and distribute in New Jersey. This aligns with a federal emergency temporary order that places these substances under Schedule I of the CSA through August 26, 2028, unless further action is taken. Kratom (the natural leaf), standard mitragynine, and concentrated synthetic 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) are **not** included in this action. None of these products are tested or regulated by the FDA and they vary widely in composition and potency.

The purpose of this health alert is to make the public aware of the potential for disruptions in the supply of Kratom and 7-OH products; to provide information about Kratom and 7-OH, including associated withdrawal symptoms; and to provide clinical guidance for New Jersey (NJ) hospitals, healthcare providers, and community-based partners who may encounter patients impacted by these changes in federal policy.

Background on Kratom and 7-OH

Kratom or *mitragyna speciosa* is a tree from Southeast Asia whose leaves have been consumed by humans for centuries. Consumption of kratom can produce analgesic (pain relief) effects; at low doses, it can produce a stimulant effect and at higher doses an opioid-like effect, including sedation. Some individuals use Kratom and/or 7-OH products to manage symptoms of opioid withdrawal and cravings.

The Kratom plant contains psychoactive components including mitragynine, which is the largest component, and its metabolite 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH), which appears in very small amounts. 7-OH can be extracted and synthesized into a high potency substance. Use of mitragynine and 7-OH activate μ-opioid receptors in the brain, which can produce euphoric and analgesic effects. Prolonged or frequent use can result in dependency.

In New Jersey and elsewhere, products containing Kratom and 7-OH are widely available for purchase at gas stations, convenience stores, smoke shops and via the internet. 7-OH products are sold in various forms including powders, tablets, gummies and sublingual films, with varying potency. They are marketed as providing relief for various conditions including stress, anxiety and pain. None of these products are tested or regulated by the FDA in the U.S. Market.

Sources: United States Food and Drug Administration, FDA and Kratom | FDA; National Institute on Drug Abuse Kratom | National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

Kratom and 7-OH Withdrawal Symptoms

Abruptly stopping use of 7-OH or Kratom may lead to withdrawal symptoms that may mimic or appear similar to opioid withdrawal. Symptoms and severity of withdrawal depend on several factors including how often the substance is used and for how long (frequency and duration), dose and strength (potency), what other drugs are used at the same time, and a person's overall health.

Commonly reported symptoms of withdrawal include:

- anxiety, restlessness/irritability, insomnia, craving, tremor
- muscle pain (myalgia), joint pain (arthralgia), generalized discomfort
- excessive or abnormal sweating (diaphoresis), runny nose (rhinorrhea), excessive or abnormal tears (lacrimation), goosebumps (piloerection), fast heart rate (tachycardia), high blood pressure (hypertension)
- nausea and vomiting, abdominal cramping, diarrhea

Sources: New Jersey Poison Control Center, njpies.org; New Jersey MAT Center of Excellence, snjmatcoe.org

DEA Action: Temporary Scheduling of 7-OH Related Substances

For more information regarding the DEA scheduling of these three substances as Schedule 1 under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), please visit The Federal Register at the link below.

- https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/08/26/2026-17429/schedules-of-controlled-substances-temporary-placement-of-mitragynine-pseudoindoxyl-mgm-15-and

Further Considerations

This temporary scheduling of 7-OH related products may lead to challenges for individuals within our community who consume the products, as well as public health agencies, hospitals, healthcare providers, and community-based partners that serve these individuals. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- **Unintended Withdrawal:** The sudden removal of 7-OH related products from gas stations, convenience stores or the internet may cause severe withdrawal symptoms for those who have developed dependency on the substance and no longer have access to it.
- **Shift to Illicit Markets:** A disruption in access to 7-OH related products may cause individuals to turn to the illicit drug market to alleviate withdrawal symptoms, putting them at greater risk for overdose, as their bodies may not be tolerant of the illicit supply.
- **Increased Visits to Emergency Departments:** The absence of 7-OH related products and onset of acute withdrawal may lead to increased visits to emergency departments as individuals seek care for managing symptoms.

Medication for Addiction Treatment and Electronic Referrals (MATTERS)

The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Medication for Addiction Treatment and Electronic Referrals (MATTERS) initiative provides connections for individuals experiencing opioid withdrawal or addiction. Any individual in New Jersey can access a same-day telehealth visit with an addiction physician by visiting http://mattersnetwork.org/nj. MATTERS referrals

include vouchers for transportation, medication and other resources to facilitate access to care. Dozens of organizations in New Jersey provide referrals to care for their clients through the MATTERS network. Email matters@doh.nj.org for more information about how to enroll your organization as a referring or treatment provider.

Clinical Guidance

Please see attached clinical guidance documents from the New Jersey Poison Control Center (NJPIES) and the Southern New Jersey MAT Center of Excellence (SNJMATCOE).

Providers may call or text the NJ MAT Provider Hotline number twenty-four hours, seven days a week at 1-844-HELP-OUD (435-7683). Visit https://snjmatcoe.org to learn more.

Clinicians treating patients with Kratom and 7-OH acute overdose or withdrawal can contact the New Jersey Poison Information and Education System (NJPIES) for guidance at 1-800-222-1222 or visit https://www.njpies.org/ to learn more.

For more information:

- Questions about this Health Alert can be directed to Amanda Gan at the New Jersey Department of Health at Amanda.Gan@doh.nj.gov.
- For media inquiries regarding 7-OH and/or related substances, visit the link below and complete the digital press intake form at https://www.nj.gov/health/news/home/contact.shtml.
- If you are interested in receiving alerts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Health Alert Network (CDC HAN), please visit https://www.cdc.gov/han/php/about/index.html to subscribe.