PCP

Phencyclidine, also known as angel dust, hog, peace pills

What is PCP?

PCP is a synthetic drug that was originally manufactured in the 1950s as a veterinary anaesthetic. It became widely used in America in the 1970s as an illegal street drug. PCP is still used in America but is only very rarely found in the UK. It comes in liquid, crystal, pill or powder form and can be smoked in a cigarette, snorted, swallowed or injected.

The law

PCP is controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act as a Class A drug. This puts it in the same category as cocaine and crack, ecstasy, heroin and LSD. Maximum penalties for supplying are life imprisonment and a fine. Maximum penalties for possession are 7 years imprisonment and a fine.

Effects/risks

PCP is an anaesthetic which has hallucinatory effects. It is regarded as a very powerful drug that can have disturbing effects including distortion of the senses, mood and experience of time, dreamlike states, euphoria or depression, panic attacks, paranoia and aggressive, sometimes violent behaviour. Deaths have been recorded from heart or lung failure.

As with any hallucinogenic drug, people who are already depressed or unstable are more likely to experience negative effects.

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### Other Sources of information

**Local organisations that offer Assessment & Treatment options for people with addictions:**

**SMART** – Substance Misuse Assessment & Referral Team Poole  
Tel 01202 735777

**BEAT** – Bournemouth Engagement and Assessment Team - Tel 01202 558855

**YADAS** – Tel 01202 741414  
[www.edasuk.org/treatment/poole/poole-yadas/](http://www.edasuk.org/treatment/poole/poole-yadas/)

**REACH YP** – Tel 0800 0434656  
[www.edasuk.org/treatment/dorset/sh/](http://www.edasuk.org/treatment/dorset/sh/)

**ADDACTION** – Tel 01202 558855  
[www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

**EDP** – Tel 01305 571264 - email [info@edp.org.uk](mailto:info@edp.org.uk)

**National organisations that offer treatment, advice, information & support for people with addictions:**

**Alcohol Change** –  
Tel 020 3907 8480  
[www.alcoholchange.org.uk](http://www.alcoholchange.org.uk)

**FRANK** – Tel 0300 1236600  
Text 82111  
[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

Contact us: Helpline 01202 733322 (Weekdays 8.30am to 4.30pm, 24-hour answer phone)  
Email: admin@edasuk.org  
EDAS Head Office - 56 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole BH14 9BN

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