# Woman critically injured by unregulated weight-loss injection sparks police crackdown in North Yorkshire



In a concerning incident that underscores the dangers associated with unregulated weight-loss treatments, a woman was left fighting for her life after using a weight-loss injection obtained from a salon in North Yorkshire. Following her use of the product, which was administered earlier this month, she suffered significant internal injuries and subsequently required intensive medical care. Fortunately, she has since been discharged from the hospital, but two other individuals reported adverse effects after using similar injections. In response to this alarming situation, North Yorkshire Police have arrested three women from the Selby area, with charges ranging from administering a noxious substance to the illegal sale of prescription-only medications.

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has intensified its efforts to clamp down on the supply of these injections, often marketed as "skinny jabs." Healthcare professionals in North Yorkshire have joined the MHRA in issuing dire warnings about purchasing weight-loss medicines from private clinics or online. Such practices, they cautioned, significantly increase the risk of acquiring unlicensed or counterfeit products that may pose serious health threats.

Laura Angus, Chief Pharmacy Officer for NHS Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, has highlighted the potential hazards of these unregulated weight-loss products. She emphasised that individuals seeking weight-loss solutions should consult healthcare professionals to ensure safe and effective treatment. "The contents may not match the ingredients on the label," she stated, stressing the importance of obtaining medications from legitimate pharmacies, including those operating online with appropriate prescriptions.

The issue of unregulated weight-loss medications is not limited to this isolated incident. Reports have surfaced across the UK of individuals experiencing serious health complications after using injections like semaglutide, a medication approved for treating obesity and type 2 diabetes. Recent inquiries have revealed that many individuals without qualifying medical conditions have misused these drugs for cosmetic weight loss, sometimes resulting in severe side effects, including nausea, vomiting, and even more serious complications. The Health Secretary, Wes Streeting, has echoed these concerns, warning against the use of such medications without proper medical guidance.

Further complicating matters, cases such as that of a woman from Doncaster, who was hospitalised for blood poisoning after administering a self-bought injection, illuminate the risks involved. The injection cost her £180, and she suffered from severe symptoms shortly thereafter, demonstrating the critical importance of healthcare oversight in the use of such drugs. The MHRA continues to identify and take action against illegal suppliers of these medications, while Dr. Alison Cave, the MHRA's chief safety officer, urges those affected to report illicit activities.

In a tragic turn of events, there have even been reports of fatalities linked to unlicensed slimming injections, including a recent case in Sunderland where a woman in her 50s died after receiving an unapproved injection. The ongoing investigation into this incident reflects the urgent need for public awareness regarding the potential dangers posed by obtaining weight-loss drugs outside regulated medical frameworks.

Despite the risks, some individuals have experienced significant weight loss through the legitimate use of prescription medication. For instance, a woman named Lizz Adair lost ten stone while using Saxenda, a drug designed specifically for individuals classified as obese. However, even such success stories come with medical caveats, as experts continually stress the importance of professional guidance when pursuing weight-loss treatments through pharmaceutical avenues.

The broader context of this emerging issue calls for heightened public education regarding the legitimacy of weight-loss medications and the importance of consulting healthcare professionals. The NHS provides various resources through programs aimed at promoting healthy living, encouraging individuals to focus on safe lifestyle changes rather than resorting to potentially dangerous unregulated substances. The continuous collaboration among law enforcement and health agencies aims to prevent illegal activities surrounding weight-loss medicines, underscoring the paramount objective of public safety.

As incidences of harm from unregulated weight-loss injections continue, the call for vigilance and responsible medical practices rings louder than ever.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/weight-loss-injections-woman-intensive-care-north-yorkshire-police-b2757267.html), [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-67507974)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/weight-loss-injections-woman-intensive-care-north-yorkshire-police-b2757267.html), [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8dmp250zjno), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2e7vegnw2do)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/people/doncaster-woman-hospitalised-after-ps180-weight-loss-injection-she-bought-online-4802911), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-humber-67748987)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8dmp250zjno), [[6]](https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-67507974)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/weight-loss-injections-woman-intensive-care-north-yorkshire-police-b2757267.html), [[7]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cyvyrqpqqgvo)
* Paragraph 6 – [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-humber-67748987), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2e7vegnw2do)
* Paragraph 7 – [[2]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8dmp250zjno), [[3]](https://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/people/doncaster-woman-hospitalised-after-ps180-weight-loss-injection-she-bought-online-4802911)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/weight-loss-injections-woman-intensive-care-north-yorkshire-police-b2757267.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8dmp250zjno> - The UK's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has urged doctors to be vigilant for patients misusing obesity injections like Wegovy. Reports indicate that individuals without obesity have fallen ill after using these jabs for weight loss. The MHRA emphasizes that these drugs are intended solely for treating obesity and diabetes, and should only be prescribed by registered healthcare professionals. Health Secretary Wes Streeting supports this stance, highlighting the serious nature of these medications and cautioning against their use for cosmetic purposes. Common side effects include nausea, vomiting, bloating, constipation, and diarrhea. In rare cases, more severe side effects can occur, underscoring the importance of medical supervision when using these drugs. The MHRA advises healthcare professionals to ensure patients are informed about potential side effects and how to minimize risks. The agency also warns against purchasing weight-loss medicines from unregulated suppliers, as this significantly increases the risk of receiving falsified or unlicensed products, which can pose serious health risks. Individuals considering weight-loss medications are encouraged to consult healthcare professionals and obtain prescriptions from legitimate sources to ensure safety and efficacy.
3. <https://www.doncasterfreepress.co.uk/news/people/doncaster-woman-hospitalised-after-ps180-weight-loss-injection-she-bought-online-4802911> - A woman from Doncaster was hospitalized with blood poisoning after receiving a £180 weight-loss injection purchased online. The injection, believed to be semaglutide, was administered by an unlicensed practitioner. Shortly after the injection, the woman experienced numbness, vomiting with blood, and severe headaches. She sought medical attention and was treated for poisoning at Doncaster Royal Infirmary. The incident highlights the dangers of buying weight-loss drugs from unregulated sources, as semaglutide is illegal to sell without approval. The Department of Health stated that the MHRA continuously works to identify and take action against those unlawfully trading in medicines. Dr. Alison Cave, the MHRA's chief safety officer, emphasized the risks associated with purchasing prescription-only medicines from unlicensed suppliers, urging individuals to report such activities to the MHRA. The case serves as a cautionary tale about the potential health risks of obtaining weight-loss medications from unauthorized sources.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2e7vegnw2do> - Paige Roberts, a 24-year-old healthcare assistant from Llandudno, Wales, experienced severe health issues after self-administering a weight-loss injection she purchased online. The injection, purportedly containing semaglutide, led to persistent vomiting, dizziness, and nausea. After 48 hours, Roberts sought emergency medical care at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, where she was informed that many individuals had been admitted to the hospital after taking weight-loss drugs, with some black market versions containing amphetamines. She was treated for dehydration and underwent tests for liver and kidney function. Roberts expressed concern over the ease of obtaining such drugs online without professional oversight and the potential dangers associated with their use. The Royal College of GPs (RCGP) Cymru highlighted the risks of acquiring weight-loss drugs without a prescription, emphasizing the importance of consulting healthcare professionals before considering such treatments. Health Secretary Wes Streeting also cautioned against using these drugs without medical supervision, stating they are serious medications intended for specific health conditions and should not be used for cosmetic purposes.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-humber-67748987> - Lizz Adair, from Market Weighton, UK, lost 10 stone (63.5 kg) in a year after using the weight-loss drug Saxenda, purchased online. Saxenda, a GLP-1 medication, suppresses appetite and is intended for individuals with a high body mass index (BMI). Adair, who had struggled with weight issues for most of her life, found the drug's effects transformative, allowing her to engage in physical activities without discomfort. However, doctors caution against buying such medications online due to potential serious side effects and the importance of consulting a GP before starting treatment. Saxenda is prescribed to help individuals with obesity or those with a BMI over 30, and its use should be monitored by healthcare professionals to ensure safety and effectiveness.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-67507974> - A man in his 30s from the Goole area in East Yorkshire was arrested on suspicion of illegally selling 'skinny jabs' online. Police, in collaboration with the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), raided a property near Hull and seized vials believed to contain semaglutide, the active ingredient in the weight-loss drug Ozempic. The operation marked the first targeted action against the black market supply of semaglutide. The MHRA and Humberside Police emphasized the dangers of purchasing unlicensed medicines online, highlighting the risks of receiving falsified or unlicensed products that do not meet safety standards. The MHRA continues to work with law enforcement to prevent the illegal sale of medicines and protect public health.
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cyvyrqpqqgvo> - A woman in her 50s died after taking an unlicensed slimming injection in Sunderland, UK. Northumbria Police reported the death on 10 August 2024. Two women, both in their 40s from Sunderland, were arrested in connection with the death. One was arrested on suspicion of administering a poison with intent to endanger life, and the other for possession of unauthorized medication intended for sale. Both were released on police bail pending further inquiries. This incident is believed to be the first known death in the UK linked to an unlicensed slimming injection. The investigation is ongoing, and authorities continue to warn against the dangers of using unlicensed weight-loss products.