Psilocybin

**WHAT IS PSilocyBIN?**
Psilocybin is a chemical obtained from certain types of fresh or dried mushrooms.

**WHAT IS ITS ORIGIN?**
Psilocybin mushrooms are found in Mexico, Central America, and the United States.

**What are common street names?**
Common street names include:
• Magic Mushrooms, Mushrooms, and Shrooms

**What does it look like?**
Mushrooms containing psilocybin are available fresh or dried and have long, slender stems topped by caps with dark gills on the underside. Fresh mushrooms have white or whitish-gray stems; the caps are dark brown around the edges and light brown or white in the center. Dried mushrooms are usually rusty brown with isolated areas of off-white.

**How is it abused?**
Psilocybin mushrooms are ingested orally. They may also be brewed as a tea or added to other foods to mask their bitter flavor.

**What is its effect on the body?**
The physical effects include:
• Nausea, vomiting, muscle weakness, and lack of coordination

**What is its effect on the mind?**
The psychological consequences of psilocybin use include hallucinations and an inability to discern fantasy from reality. Panic reactions and a psychotic-like episode also may occur, particularly if a user ingests a high dose.

**What are its overdose effects?**
Effects of overdose include:
• Longer, more intense “trip” episodes, psychosis, and possible death
Abuse of psilocybin mushrooms could also lead to poisoning if one of the many varieties of poisonous mushrooms is incorrectly identified as a psilocybin mushroom.

**Which drugs cause similar effects?**
Psilocybin effects are similar to other hallucinogens, such as mescaline and peyote.

**What is its legal status in the United States?**
Psilocybin is a Schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act, meaning that it has a high potential for abuse, no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision.