
NALTREXONE Fact Sheet for Patients

Generic Name: Naltrexone (nal-TREKS-own)

Brand Names:

- ReVia
 - Tablet: 50 mg
- Vivitrol
 - Long-acting injection: 380 mg

What Does It Treat?

Moderate to severe alcohol use disorder.

How Does It Work?

Naltrexone blocks opioid receptors in the brain, which can decrease cravings for and rewarding effects of alcohol or opioids. Especially when combined with other types of therapy or support, it can help people to stop using alcohol or opioids and prevent relapse.

How Do I Take It?

Naltrexone can be taken once daily by mouth with or without food as a tablet, or it can be taken as a once-monthly injection into the muscle. Injections are given in a physician's office or pharmacy, not at home.

How Long Will I Take It?

Different people stay on naltrexone for different lengths of time, but usually it's taken for at least six to 12 months. Continue taking it as long as you and your provider find it helpful.

What if I Miss a Dose?

If you miss a dose of oral naltrexone, take it as soon as you remember unless it is closer to the time of your next dose. Do not double your next dose.

What Are Possible Side Effects?

- Most common: Nausea, vomiting, headache, sleepiness. Bruising, swelling, or tenderness at the site of injection with the injectable form.
- Rare: Changes in liver function.

What Else Should I Know?

- If you experience nausea, try taking your naltrexone dose with food. Or, let your prescriber know and they may reduce your dose.
- If you experience pain in your lower back or excessive tiredness, let your prescriber know.
- Avoid taking any opioids while you are taking naltrexone or if you have recently stopped taking naltrexone.
- Let your health care providers know you are taking naltrexone and consider carrying a wallet card or other alert stating that you are taking naltrexone.