
NALTREXONE (ReVia, Vivitrol) Fact Sheet for Patients

Generic Name: Naltrexone (nal-TREX-own)

Brand Names: ReVia (tablet), Vivitrol (injection)

What Does It Treat?

Naltrexone is used in the treatment of alcohol and opioid use disorder.

How Does It Work?

For treating opioid use disorder, naltrexone injection blocks opioids from getting into your brain. It also helps to curb cravings, leading to less opioid use.

How Do I Take It?

Naltrexone comes as a pill (ReVia) or an extended-release injection (Vivitrol). For opioid use disorder, only the injectable version has proven effective. To start naltrexone, you need to be opioid-free for a week to 10 days—taking naltrexone any sooner could trigger opioid withdrawal. Once you're free of opioids, naltrexone is given as an injection in the buttock every three to four weeks.

Where Do I Get It?

Your healthcare provider can prescribe naltrexone. The injection is typically given at the doctor's office, in a pharmacy, in a hospital, or at a treatment facility. Sometimes, a visiting nurse can administer it at your home.

What Are Possible Side Effects?

- Most common: Nausea, headache, dizziness, anxiety, fatigue, sleep difficulties.
- Serious but rare: Liver damage and allergic reactions (eg, rash, swelling, difficulty breathing).

What Else Should I Know?

- Naltrexone can interact with other medications, so be sure to let your healthcare provider know about all the medicines you're taking.
- Avoid using naltrexone if you're currently using opioids or if you have severe liver disease or liver failure.
- Before starting naltrexone, inform your healthcare provider if you have any history of liver issues or other medical problems.
- Consider carrying an ID card or wearing a medical alert bracelet indicating that you're taking naltrexone. This could be lifesaving information in an emergency.