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# NALTREXONE Fact Sheet for Patients

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**Generic Name:** Naltrexone (nal-TREKS-own)

**Brand Names:** ReVia, Vivitrol

**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.

**What is the Dose?**

The typical dosage for naltrexone, used for alcohol and opioid dependence, is 50 mg per day orally or 380 mg every four weeks by injection. The dosing depends on both the condition being treated and the product being used and should be determined by your health care provider.

**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. The injectable form may cause bruising, swelling, or tenderness at the injection site.
- 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.
- Naltrexone can interact with other medications, so let your health care provider know of any other medications you are taking.

Remember, this fact sheet provides general information about this medication. For more specific guidance and instructions, consult your health care provider.