



# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

If you're considering treatment with VIVITROL® (naltrexone for extended-release injectable suspension), you may have questions. Use this discussion guide to help start a conversation with your doctor about a recovery plan that includes VIVITROL.

## Questions to ask your doctor

- What is the most important information I should know about VIVITROL?
- How will my injection be scheduled?
- What should I know about the possible side effects?
- Where do I go to get my injection?
- Can I take my other medications while on VIVITROL?
- Do you have any patients who are on VIVITROL?
- Am I eligible for the Co-pay Savings Program to help pay for VIVITROL?

Be sure to read and understand the Medication Guide before starting treatment with VIVITROL.

## Important things to tell your doctor before getting VIVITROL

Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions, including if you:

- Have liver problems
- Use opioid-containing medicines
- Use or abuse street (illegal) drugs
- Have hemophilia or other bleeding problems
- Have kidney problems
- Take any medications, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins or herbal supplements
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant; it is not known if VIVITROL will harm your unborn baby.
- Are breastfeeding. It is not known if VIVITROL passes into your milk, or if it can harm your baby. Naltrexone, the active ingredient in VIVITROL, is the same active ingredient in tablets taken by mouth that contain naltrexone. Naltrexone from tablets passes into breast milk. Talk to your doctor about whether you will breastfeed or take VIVITROL. You should not do both.
- Have any other medical condition



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## Who should not take VIVITROL®?

You should not take VIVITROL if you:

- Are using or have a physical dependence on opioid-containing medicines or opioid street drugs
  - Have taken opioid-containing medicines or opioid street drugs during the 7-14 days before you start taking VIVITROL
  - Have opioid withdrawal symptoms
  - Are allergic to VIVITROL or any of the ingredients in the liquid used to mix VIVITROL
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VIVITROL may not work for everyone. VIVITROL has not been studied in children under the age of 18 years.

Discuss all benefits and risks of VIVITROL with your doctor and whether VIVITROL may be right for you. Call your doctor for medical advice about any side effects. This information does not take the place of talking with your doctor.

# IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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## WHAT IS VIVITROL®?

VIVITROL (naltrexone for extended-release injectable suspension) is a prescription injectable medicine used to:

- Treat alcohol dependence. You should stop drinking before starting VIVITROL.
- Prevent relapse to opioid dependence **after** opioid detox. You must stop taking opioids or other opioid-containing medications before starting VIVITROL.

VIVITROL must be used with other alcohol or drug recovery programs such as counseling.

VIVITROL may not work for everyone and has not been studied in children.

## DO NOT TAKE VIVITROL IF YOU:

- Are still using or still have any symptoms of physical withdrawal due to dependence on opioid street drugs or opioid-containing medicines.
- Have opioid withdrawal symptoms.
- Are allergic to naltrexone or any of the ingredients in VIVITROL or the liquid used to mix VIVITROL.

See the Medication Guide for more information about opioid withdrawal and the ingredients in VIVITROL and the liquid used to mix it.

## WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT VIVITROL?

**VIVITROL can cause serious side effects, including:**

### RISK OF OPIOID OVERDOSE

Using opioids, even in amounts that you used before VIVITROL treatment, can lead to accidental overdose, serious injury, coma, or death. To avoid accidental overdose:

- **Do not** take large amounts of opioids or try to overcome the opioid-blocking effects of VIVITROL.
- Do not use opioids in amounts that you used before VIVITROL treatment. You may even be more sensitive to **lower** amounts of opioids:
  - After detox
  - When your next VIVITROL dose is due.
  - If you miss a dose of VIVITROL.
  - After you stop VIVITROL treatment.

**Get emergency medical help right away** if you have trouble breathing; become very drowsy with slowed breathing; have slow, shallow breathing; feel faint, dizzy, confused; or have other unusual symptoms.

### SEVERE REACTIONS AT THE INJECTION SITE

VIVITROL may cause severe injection site reactions, including tissue death. Some injection site reactions have required surgery. Call your doctor right away if you notice any of the following at your injection site:

- Intense pain
- The area feels hard
- Swelling
- Lumps
- Blisters
- An open wound
- A dark scab

Tell your doctor about any injection site reaction that concerns you, gets worse over time or does not get better by two weeks after the injection.

### SUDDEN OPIOID WITHDRAWAL

To avoid sudden opioid withdrawal, you must stop taking any opioids or opioid-containing medications, including buprenorphine or methadone, **for at least 7 to 14 days** before starting VIVITROL. If your doctor decides that you don't need to complete detox first, he or she may give you VIVITROL in a medical facility that can treat sudden opioid withdrawal.

**Sudden opioid withdrawal can be severe and may require hospitalization.**

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Please see [Prescribing Information](#), including [Medication Guide](#). Review the [Medication Guide](#) with your doctor.

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[vivitrol.com](http://vivitrol.com)

**Vivitrol**<sup>®</sup>  
(naltrexone for extended-release  
injectable suspension)

# IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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## LIVER DAMAGE OR HEPATITIS

Naltrexone, the active ingredient in VIVITROL®, can cause liver damage or hepatitis. Tell your doctor if you have any of the following symptoms of liver problems during VIVITROL treatment:

- Stomach area pain lasting more than a few days
- Dark urine
- Yellowing of the whites of your eyes
- Tiredness

## OTHER POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

VIVITROL can cause other serious side effects, such as:

- **Depressed mood** – Sometimes this leads to suicide or suicidal thoughts and behavior. Tell those closest to you that you are taking VIVITROL. You or those closest to you should call your doctor right away if you become depressed or have any new or worsening depression symptoms.
- **Allergic pneumonia** – Tell your healthcare provider if you have shortness of breath, wheezing, or a cough that doesn't go away.
- **Serious allergic reactions** – Get medical help immediately if you have a skin rash; swelling of your face, eyes, mouth, or tongue; trouble breathing or wheezing; chest pain; or are feeling dizzy or faint.

**Common side effects** of VIVITROL include nausea, tiredness, headache, dizziness, vomiting, decreased appetite, painful joints, and muscle cramps; in addition, common side effects in people taking VIVITROL for opioid dependence also include cold symptoms, trouble sleeping, and toothache.

These are not all of the side effects of VIVITROL. For more information, ask your healthcare provider. Tell your doctor right away if you have any side effect that does not go away. See the attached [Medication Guide](#) for more information.

**Call your doctor for medical advice about any side effects. You are encouraged to report negative side effects to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

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Please see [Prescribing Information](#), including [Medication Guide](#). Review the [Medication Guide](#) with your doctor.

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