

HEALTHCARE PROVIDER DISCUSSION GUIDE

for Caregivers



If you're caring for someone who is struggling with opioid dependence, it may be challenging to choose a treatment between all of the available options.

→ One option to consider?

Non-addictive VIVITROL® (naltrexone for extended-release injectable suspension).¹ This once-monthly treatment is proven to prevent relapse in opioid dependent patients when used with counseling following opioid detoxification.²

Use this discussion guide to help you get the conversation started with a healthcare provider and put together a plan that best fits the needs of your loved one.

→ Want to help your loved one find a VIVITROL provider?

Visit [VIVITROL.com/find-a-treatment-provider](https://www.vivitrol.com/find-a-treatment-provider)

UNDERSTANDING YOUR LOVED ONE'S RIGHTS

As a caregiver, you may want to be involved in treatment discussions. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, or HIPAA, includes rules that protect the privacy of every adult's healthcare information. Under HIPAA, permission is required for a healthcare provider or health plan to share information with a caregiver of a patient. This includes in-person meetings, phone conversations or written information. There are only a few exceptions, such as emergency situations.

Indications:

VIVITROL is a prescription injectable medicine used to:

- treat alcohol dependence. You should stop drinking before starting VIVITROL.
- prevent relapse to opioid dependence, **after** opioid detoxification.

You must stop taking opioids before you start receiving VIVITROL. To be effective, VIVITROL must be used with other alcohol or drug recovery programs such as counseling.

VIVITROL may not work for everyone. It is not known if VIVITROL is safe and effective in children.

References:

1. Kosten TR, George TP. The neurobiology of opioid dependence: implications for treatment. *Sci Pract Perspect*. 2002;1(1):13-20.
2. VIVITROL [prescribing information]. Waltham, MA: Alkermes, Inc; rev September 2019.

PLEASE SEE BRIEF SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT VIVITROL ON PAGE 4 OF THIS WORKSHEET.
PLEASE ALSO SEE PRESCRIBING INFORMATION AND MEDICATION GUIDE. REVIEW MEDICATION GUIDE WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.

TALKING WITH A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER



Deciding what to ask a healthcare provider about treatment options can seem daunting. You may want to ask about the treatment possibilities for your loved one, the plan the healthcare provider is recommending, and the reasons for it. If there are other questions or concerns, don't hesitate to ask.

Here are some topics and questions to consider during your loved one's appointment:

1 ABOUT VIVITROL

- What is the most important information to know about VIVITROL?
- How is VIVITROL taken, and where do patients go to get it?
- Do you have any patients that are taking VIVITROL?
- Is my loved one eligible for savings programs to help pay for VIVITROL?
- Can opioid-containing medicines be taken while on VIVITROL?
- Are there other medically assisted treatments (MAT) available?

2 TREATMENT GOALS

- What types of short- and long-term goals belong in a treatment plan?
- Can relapse to opioid dependence be prevented? Can VIVITROL help?
- How can personal goals fit into my loved one's treatment plan?
- Are there options to help decrease opioid cravings? Is VIVITROL an option?

Important Safety Information

Contraindications

Do not receive VIVITROL if you:

- are using or have a physical dependence on opioid containing medicines or opioid street drugs, such as heroin. To test for a physical dependence on opioid-containing medicines or street drugs, your healthcare provider may give you a small injection of a medicine called naloxone. This is called a naloxone challenge test. **If you get symptoms of opioid withdrawal after the naloxone challenge test, do not start treatment with VIVITROL at that time.** Your healthcare provider may repeat the test after you have stopped using opioids to see whether it is safe to start VIVITROL.
- are having opioid withdrawal symptoms. Opioid withdrawal symptoms may happen when you have been taking opioid-containing medicines or opioid street drugs regularly and then stop. **Symptoms of opioid withdrawal may include:** anxiety, sleeplessness, yawning, fever, sweating, teary eyes, runny nose, goose bumps, shakiness, hot or cold flushes, muscle aches, muscle twitches, restlessness, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach cramps.
- are allergic to naltrexone or any of the ingredients in VIVITROL or the liquid used to mix VIVITROL (diluent). See the medication guide for the full list of ingredients.

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3 COUNSELING AND SETTINGS OF CARE

- Should therapy and/or counseling be part of my loved one's recovery program?
- What are some counseling options? (group, individual, peer support)
- What treatment settings should be considered? (hospital or other medical facilities)
- Are there programs that would allow my loved one to live at home and continue to work?

4 OPIOID DETOXIFICATION

- Should opioid detox be a part of my loved one's treatment plan?
- Is opioid detox required before taking VIVITROL?
- Does opioid detox require hospitalization?
- Can you tell me more about Medically Supervised Withdrawal from opioids?

Additional Questions and Notes:

Have more questions? Write them below, or use this space to record your learnings.

As you move forward with this Healthcare Provider Discussion Guide, remember there are no right or wrong answers. Just be honest and open with your loved one's healthcare provider.

Important Safety Information

VIVITROL can cause serious side effects, including:

Risk of opioid overdose. You can accidentally overdose in two ways.

- VIVITROL blocks the effects of opioids, such as heroin or opioid pain medicines. **Do not** try to overcome this blocking effect by taking large amounts of opioids—this can lead to serious injury, coma, or death.
- After you receive a dose of VIVITROL, its blocking effect slowly decreases and completely goes away over time. If you have used opioid street drugs or opioid-containing medicines in the past, using opioids in amounts that you used before treatment with VIVITROL can lead to overdose and death. You may also be more sensitive to the effects of **lower** amounts of opioids:
 - after you have gone through detoxification
 - if you miss a dose of VIVITROL
 - when your next VIVITROL dose is due
 - after you stop VIVITROL treatment

Tell your family and the people closest to you of this increased sensitivity to opioids and the risk of overdose.

PLEASE SEE BRIEF SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT VIVITROL ON PAGE 4. PLEASE ALSO SEE PRESCRIBING INFORMATION AND MEDICATION GUIDE. REVIEW MEDICATION GUIDE WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF **IMPORTANT FACTS** ABOUT VIVITROL®

(NALTREXONE FOR EXTENDED-RELEASE INJECTABLE SUSPENSION)

What is the most important information I should know about VIVITROL?

VIVITROL can cause serious side effects, including:

1. **Risk of opioid overdose.** You can accidentally overdose in two ways.
 - VIVITROL blocks the effects of opioids, such as heroin or opioid pain medicines. **Do not** try to overcome this blocking effect by taking large amounts of opioids—this can lead to serious injury, coma, or death.
 - After you receive a dose of VIVITROL, its blocking effect slowly decreases and completely goes away over time. If you have used opioid street drugs or opioid-containing medicines in the past, using opioids in amounts that you used before treatment with VIVITROL can lead to overdose and death. You may also be more sensitive to the effects of **lower** amounts of opioids:
 - after you have gone through detoxification
 - if you miss a dose of VIVITROL
 - when your next VIVITROL dose is due
 - after you stop VIVITROL treatment

Tell your family and the people closest to you of this increased sensitivity to opioids and the risk of overdose.

2. **Severe reactions at the site of injection.** Some people on VIVITROL have had severe injection site reactions, including tissue death. Some of these reactions have required surgery. VIVITROL must be injected by a healthcare provider. Call your healthcare provider right away if you notice any of the following at any of your injection sites:

- intense pain
- the area feels hard
- large area of swelling
- lumps
- blisters
- an open wound
- a dark scab

Tell your healthcare provider about any reaction at an injection site that concerns you, gets worse over time, or does not get better within two weeks.

3. **Sudden opioid withdrawal.** To avoid sudden opioid withdrawal, you must stop taking any type of opioid, including street drugs; prescription pain medicines; cough, cold, or diarrhea medicines that contain opioids; or opioid-dependence treatments, 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.**
4. **Liver damage or hepatitis.** Naltrexone, the active ingredient in VIVITROL, can cause liver damage or hepatitis. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any of these symptoms during treatment with VIVITROL:
 - stomach area pain lasting more than a few days
 - dark urine
 - yellowing of the whites of your eyes
 - tiredness

Your healthcare provider may need to stop treating you with VIVITROL if you get signs or symptoms of a serious liver problem.

What is VIVITROL?

VIVITROL is a prescription injectable medicine used to:

- treat alcohol dependence. You should stop drinking before starting VIVITROL.
- prevent relapse to opioid dependence, **after** opioid detoxification.

You must stop taking opioids before you start receiving VIVITROL. To be effective, VIVITROL must be used with other alcohol or drug recovery programs such as counseling. VIVITROL may not work for everyone. It is not known if VIVITROL is safe and effective in children.

Who should not receive VIVITROL?

Do not receive VIVITROL if you:

- are using or have a physical dependence on opioid-containing medicines or opioid street drugs, such as heroin. To test for a physical dependence on opioid-containing medicines or street drugs, your healthcare provider may give you a small injection of a medicine called naloxone. This is called a naloxone challenge test. **If you get symptoms of opioid withdrawal after the naloxone challenge test, do not start treatment with VIVITROL at that time.** Your healthcare provider may repeat the test after you have stopped using opioids to see whether it is safe to start VIVITROL.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO READ THE BRIEF SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT VIVITROL ON THE NEXT PAGE. PLEASE ALSO SEE PRESCRIBING INFORMATION AND MEDICATION GUIDE. REVIEW MEDICATION GUIDE WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.

Vivitrol[®]
(naltrexone for extended-release
injectable suspension)

BRIEF SUMMARY OF **IMPORTANT FACTS** ABOUT VIVITROL®

(NALTREXONE FOR EXTENDED-RELEASE INJECTABLE SUSPENSION)

- are having opioid withdrawal symptoms. Opioid withdrawal symptoms may happen when you have been taking opioid containing medicines or opioid street drugs regularly and then stop. **Symptoms of opioid withdrawal may include:** anxiety, sleeplessness, yawning, fever, sweating, teary eyes, runny nose, goose bumps, shakiness, hot or cold flushes, muscle aches, muscle twitches, restlessness, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach cramps.
- are allergic to naltrexone or any of the ingredients in VIVITROL or the liquid used to mix VIVITROL (diluent). See the medication guide for the full list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before receiving VIVITROL?

Before you receive VIVITROL, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems, use or abuse street (illegal) drugs, have hemophilia or other bleeding problems, have kidney problems, or have any other medical conditions.
- 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, and 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 healthcare provider about whether you will breastfeed or take VIVITROL. You should not do both.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take any opioid-containing medicines for pain, cough or colds, or diarrhea.

If you are being treated for alcohol dependence but also use or are addicted to opioid-containing medicines or opioid street drugs, it is important that you tell your healthcare provider before starting VIVITROL to avoid having sudden opioid withdrawal symptoms when you start VIVITROL treatment.

What are other possible serious side effects of VIVITROL?

VIVITROL can cause serious side effects, including:

Depressed mood. Sometimes this leads to suicide, or suicidal thoughts, and suicidal behavior. Tell your family members and people closest to you that you are taking VIVITROL.

Pneumonia. Some people receiving VIVITROL treatment have had a type of pneumonia that is caused by an allergic reaction. If this happens to you, you may need to be treated in the hospital.

Serious allergic reactions. Serious allergic reactions can happen during or soon after an injection of VIVITROL. Tell your healthcare provider or get medical help right away if you have any of these symptoms:

- skin rash
- swelling of your face, eyes, mouth, or tongue
- trouble breathing or wheezing
- chest pain
- feeling dizzy or faint

Common side effects of VIVITROL may include:

- nausea
- sleepiness
- headache
- dizziness
- vomiting
- decreased appetite
- painful joints
- muscle cramps
- cold symptoms
- trouble sleeping
- toothache

These are not all the side effects of VIVITROL. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. You are encouraged to report all side effects to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

This is only a summary of the most important information about VIVITROL.

Need more information?

- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Read the Medication Guide, which is available at vivitrol.com and by calling 1-800-848-4876, option #1.

This Brief Summary is based on the VIVITROL Medication Guide (Rev. July 2019).

PLEASE ALSO SEE PRESCRIBING INFORMATION AND MEDICATION GUIDE. REVIEW MEDICATION GUIDE WITH YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.



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