

# Naltrexone Extended-Release Injection (Vivitrol®)

## Recovery-Focused Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

### What is naltrexone extended-release (ER) injection (Vivitrol®)?

Naltrexone ER is a medicine used to treat adults with OUD. It can also be used to treat alcohol use disorder. Naltrexone ER is a long-acting, injectable form of naltrexone tablets. A monthly injection may be more convenient than taking a medicine every day.



### How does naltrexone ER work to treat OUD?

Naltrexone ER blocks the effects of opioids (such as oxycodone, heroin, and fentanyl). This medicine can cause chemical changes in the brain to reduce your desire to use opioids. Naltrexone ER is not addictive and does not cause withdrawal symptoms if it is stopped.

### Will I need other forms of treatment?

Treatment of OUD includes a combination of medicine and social support. No two treatment plans are the same. Your health care provider will work with you to develop a treatment plan to fit your needs.



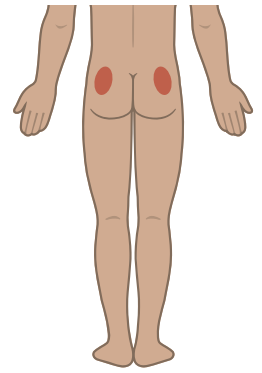
### What do I need to know before starting treatment?

- **You will need to take oral naltrexone tablets before receiving naltrexone ER injections** to make sure this medicine works well for you.
- Before starting any naltrexone product, **you must be free of all opioids for about a week.** Naltrexone can interact with any opioids you may have in your body and cause withdrawal symptoms. Tell your health care provider the last time you used opioids.
- **Opioid medicines (such as oxycodone, morphine) will not work normally** during treatment.
  - If you have a planned surgery, work with your health care provider on a pain management plan.
  - Have family members tell health care providers you are receiving treatment for OUD. Carry a medication identification (ID) card or bracelet in case of emergency.
- Talk to your health care provider if you are pregnant, plan to get pregnant, or are breastfeeding.
- Tell your health care provider if you have kidney or liver disease.
- **Your opioid tolerance is lower after stopping naltrexone.** This can increase the risk for fatal overdose. Ask your health care provider about **naloxone** (Narcan®), which can stop an accidental overdose.



## How will I receive injections?

- Naltrexone ER injection is given in the buttock muscle by a trained health care provider about **every 4 weeks**.
- If you miss a dose, contact your health care provider to receive the next injection as soon as possible.



## What are some of the side effects?

If you experience any of the side effects below, talk to your health care provider. Some common side effects may get better as your body gets used to this medicine.

<b>Common side effects</b>	<b>Less common, but can be severe</b> <i>Tell your health care provider immediately if you have any of the following:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Redness or swelling at injection area</li><li>• Headache</li><li>• Diarrhea</li><li>• Nausea</li><li>• Upset stomach</li><li>• Fatigue</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thoughts of hurting yourself or depressed mood</li><li>• Nervousness</li><li>• Difficulty sleeping</li><li>• Allergic reaction (rash, itching, hives) or severe swelling</li><li>• Chest tightness or trouble breathing</li><li>• Dark or tea-colored urine</li><li>• Yellowing of skin or whites of eyes</li></ul>

## How long do I have to take naltrexone ER injections?

You and your health care provider will decide on your treatment plan. There is no limit on how long you can take this medicine. Some patients stay on this medication for life.



### To reach the Veterans Crisis Line:

- Dial 988 and press 1
- Text to 838255
- Chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/Chat)