

Protocol for Long-acting Injectable Naltrexone for Alcohol Use Disorder

1. Exclusions
 - a) Current opioid use. Must be opioid free for 7-10 days (14 days for buprenorphine or methadone, 2-3 days for sporadic users)
 - b) AST or ALT greater than 5 times the maximum of normal range. (See Providers' Clinical Support System (PCSS) guideline "Monitoring of Liver Function Tests in Patients Receiving Naltrexone or Extended-Release Naltrexone" under CIS for more information)
2. Initiation
 - a) Comprehensive evaluation for alcohol and other substances:
 - i. Use: age at first use, current frequency of use*, maximum use ever
 - ii. Cravings: severity (Urge to Drink Scale), triggers
 - iii. Consequences: medical, relationships, financial, work, legal, etc.
 - b) Labs
 - i. AST, ALT, and total bilirubin
 - ii. Urine Drugs Screen (10 drugs version)
 - iii. Evaluation for HBV, HCV, and HIV not required, but recommended
 - c) Handout: Client Information for Long-Acting Injectable Naltrexone (English)
 - d) Submit PAR.
 - e) Offer oral naltrexone to bridge until injection day. Start 50 mg half tablet daily for 2 days, then whole tablet daily.
 - f) Injection day
 - i. If patient not already taking oral naltrexone, give 25 mg oral naltrexone and monitor for 1-2 hours for allergic reaction and opioid withdrawal symptoms (can use COWS – Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale). If no adverse reaction, proceed with injection.
 - ii. If patient taking oral naltrexone, discontinue it.
3. Continuation
 - a) Injections occur monthly.
 - b) Monitor cravings (Urge to Drink Scale) and use*
 - c) Monitor LFTs quarterly. (See PCSS guideline for parameters requiring discontinuation).
 - d) Ask about use of other substances.
4. Termination/Transition
 - a) If no improvement after 2-3 months, discontinue, and switch to other medication for AUD. If partial improvement, consider augmentation.

After 6 months of treatment, consider switching to oral naltrexone if clt is doing well and psychosocial situation is stable. If situation unstable, continue injections.

* Use Questions:

1. Number of drinks in the last week:
2. Number of heavy drinking days (5 or more for men under age 65, 4 or more for women and all adults age 65 or older) in the last month:
3. Time since last drink: