VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE PLAN

VIVITROL (naltrexone extended release)

Effective Date: 1/28/14

Date Developed: 1/28/14 by Robert Sterling, MD

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Naltrexone (a pure opioid antagonist) is a derivative of oxymorphone similar in structure to naloxone and nalorphine (a morphine derivative); it acts as a competitive antagonist at opioid receptor sites, showing the highest affinity for mu receptors. Endogenous opioids are involved in modulating the expression of alcohol's reinforcing effects. Naltrexone also modifies the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis to suppress alcohol consumption.

Authorization:

Alcohol use disorder: Treatment of alcohol use disorder.
Opioid use disorder, mild to severe: For the blockade of the effects of exogenously administered opioids.

Dosing

Alcohol use disorder:

Oral: 50 mg once daily; may increase to 100 mg once daily after 1 week based on response and tolerability

IM: 380 mg once every 4 weeks.

Opioid use disorder

IM: 380 mg once every 4 weeks.

NOTE: Oral naltrexone tablets have not been shown to be more effective than placebo for opioid use disorder due to poor patient compliance
NOTE: Do not initiate therapy until patient has passed a naloxone challenge test or is opioid-free (including tramadol) for at least 7 to 10 days after last opioid us**PRECAUTIONS:** injection site reactions; worsening depression; hypersensitivity reactions; unintended withdrawal symptoms if given prior to several days of abstinence; hepatic impairment; significant drug

interactions exist, requiring dose/frequency adjustment or avoidance. Consult drug interactions database for more information.

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Revision Date	Content Revised (Yes/No)	Contributors	Review/Revision Notes
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2/18/25	Yes	Howard Taekman, MD; Robert Sterling, MD	Updated dosing information and references