



## Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder

October 2023

**Table 1: Preferred Pharmacologic Treatment of Alcohol Use Disorder in Nonpregnant Adults [a]**

| Medication [b]  | Dosage   | Considerations   |
|---|--|--|
| Acamprosate oral<br>( <a href="#">Campral</a> )                       | <b>Initial and maintenance:</b> 666 mg 3 times per day   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate treatment as soon as patients have abstained from alcohol use and within 7 days.</li> <li>Counsel patients about the importance of adherence.</li> <li>Perform serum CrCl testing before initiating treatment; adjust dose if CrCl is between 30 and 50 mL/min or eGFR is between 30 and 59 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li><b>Contraindications:</b> CrCl &lt;30 mL/min or eGFR &lt;30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>; see package insert for dose adjustments based on CrCl.</li> </ul>   |
| Naltrexone oral<br>( <a href="#">Revia</a> )                          | <p><b>Initial and maintenance:</b> 50 mg once daily</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If adverse effects occur, clinicians can consider a reduced dose of 25 mg once daily.</li> <li>100 mg daily has been used and well tolerated in studies.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abstinence from alcohol is not required for initiating and maintaining treatment.</li> <li>Recommend the injectable formulation for patients who have problems with adherence to the oral regimen.</li> <li>Abstinence from opioids is required for treatment. For patients who use alcohol and opioids, see recommendations in NYSDOH AI guideline <a href="#">Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder &gt; Naltrexone</a>.</li> </ul>  |
| XR Naltrexone, long-acting injectable<br>( <a href="#">Vivitrol</a> ) | <p><b>Initial:</b> 50 mg oral naltrexone once daily for at least 3 days</p> <p><b>Maintenance:</b> 380 mg intragluteal injection every 28 days</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribe with caution in patients with abnormal liver function 3 to 5 times the upper limit of normal [FDA 2022; FDA 2013]. The extent of liver abnormalities on baseline testing may guide continued testing or referral to an experienced liver specialist.</li> <li><b>Contraindications:</b> Concomitant use of opioid analgesics or opioid agonists (e.g., methadone or buprenorphine), current physiologic opioid dependence, acute opioid withdrawal, reaction to a naloxone challenge test, or a positive urine test result for opioids</li> </ul> |

**Abbreviations:** AUD, alcohol use disorder; CrCl, creatinine clearance; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; XR, extended-release.

**Notes:**

- For treatment of pregnant individuals with AUD, see NYSDOH AI guideline [Substance Use Disorder Treatment in Pregnant Adults > Alcohol Use and Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment During Pregnancy](#).
- Consult package insert for full prescribing information for each medication.

### References

FDA. Revia (naltrexone hydrochloride tablets USP). 2013 Oct. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2013/018932s017lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2013/018932s017lbl.pdf) [accessed 2023 Jul 18]

FDA. Vivitrol (naltrexone for extended-release injectable suspension), for intramuscular use. 2022 Sep. [https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda\\_docs/label/2022/021897s057lbl.pdf](https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2022/021897s057lbl.pdf) [accessed 2023 Jul 24]