



Coverage Guidelines: Vivitrol (naltrexone)

Policy

Network Health covers Vivitrol (naltrexone) with prior authorization for *Network Health Together*[®], *Network Health Forward*[®], and *Network Health Extend* members who meet specific coverage criteria. Vivitrol is only available through our specialty pharmacy program as a pharmacy benefit.

Covered conditions

Network Health covers initial therapy with Vivitrol when a member meets all criteria for one of the following conditions:

Alcohol dependency

- Does not have an allergy to naltrexone, **and**
- Is currently abstaining from opioid use, **and**
- Is currently receiving psychosocial support, **and**
- Has tried and failed at least a 30-day trial with oral naltrexone; **or** the member's provider has documented clinical inappropriateness of treatment with oral naltrexone

Opioid dependency (following opioid detoxification)

- Does not have an allergy to naltrexone, **and**
- Is currently abstaining from opioid use, **and**
- Is currently receiving psychosocial support, **and**
- Has tried and failed at least a 30-day trial with oral naltrexone; **or** the member's provider has documented clinical inappropriateness of treatment with oral naltrexone

Network Health covers ongoing therapy with Vivitrol when a member meets the renewal criteria for one of the following conditions:

Alcohol dependency

- Is currently abstaining from alcohol; **or** has a significant decrease in alcohol consumption or medically related services such as ER or detoxification visits, **and**
- Is currently abstaining from opioid use, **and**
- Is currently receiving psychosocial support

Opioid dependency

- Is currently abstaining from opioid use, **and**
- Is currently receiving psychosocial support

These guidelines apply to *Network Health Together*, *Network Health Forward*, and *Network Health Extend* plans. Coverage is based on member benefits and eligibility; medical necessity review, where applicable; and the Network Health provider agreement. Adherence to these guidelines by a provider does not guarantee coverage. Network Health reserves the right to amend these guidelines at its discretion.



Please note: Network Health will approve one year of initial Vivitrol treatment if a member meets all of the initial criteria for a covered condition described in the covered conditions section. Network Health will approve one year of continued treatment with Vivitrol when a member meets all of the renewal criteria for these conditions.

Noncovered conditions

Network Health does not cover Vivitrol for conditions not described in the covered conditions section.

Definitions

Alcohol dependency is a chronic disease characterized by a strong craving for alcohol, a constant or periodic reliance on use of alcohol despite adverse consequences, the inability to limit drinking, physical illness when drinking is stopped, and the need for increasing amounts of alcohol to feel its effects.

Opioid dependency is a medical diagnosis characterized by an individual's inability to stop using opioids (e.g., morphine/heroin, codeine, oxycodone, hydrocodone) even when objectively it is in his or her best interest to do so.

Opioid detoxification is a process in which the body is allowed to free itself of opioids. During this period, the symptoms of withdrawal are also treated. Detoxification is the primary step in any drug treatment program, and is used as the initial phase in treating any drug addictions.

Guidelines references

Vivitrol [package insert]. (2010). *Cephalon*.

Naltrexone and alcoholism treatment. (1998). *Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series 28*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Public Health Service. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

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