

## Possible side effects associated with Vivitrol use:

- Pain, swelling, or scabbing near the injection site
- Shortness of breath, persistent cough, or other respiratory problems
- Runny nose and watery eyes
- Liver damage
- Dental pain
- Depression
- Muscle cramps
- Headache
- Decreased appetite
- Sneezing
- Fatigue
- Insomnia
- Nausea

To obtain more information on Vivitrol and its side effects, as well as how it can be effective for you, reach out to Bedford Counseling Associates Treatment Center today.



## Bedford Counseling Associates

2 Wall Street, Manchester, NH

(603) 623-1916

[www.bedfordcounseling.org](http://www.bedfordcounseling.org)



## The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester

401 Cypress Street, Manchester, NH

(603) 668-4111

[www.mhcgm.org](http://www.mhcgm.org)

# Vivitrol Treatment for Opioid and Alcohol use Disorders

The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester offers an adult outpatient medication assisted treatment program for opioid and alcohol use disorders at Bedford Counseling Associates.



## How It Works and Is It Safe?

Vivitrol is a legal prescription drug that has been used to help many individuals overcome addictions to alcohol and opioids. It contains a substance called naltrexone, which is an opioid antagonist that was first approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1984.

When administered in monthly doses under the care of a physician, Vivitrol can be safe for both short and long-term use. But as is the case with nearly every drug, certain side effects can occur, and a medical professional can help you determine if Vivitrol is safe for you.

It should be noted that this substance is not safe for pregnant women or for anyone who has consumed opioids in the previous week.

## Effectiveness of Treatment

Vivitrol's effectiveness has been documented in numerous studies. Research indicates that those who used Vivitrol to combat opioid abuse reported an average of 99.2% opioid-free days during treatment. Reducing cravings is a key component of successful recovery, and another study indicated that those using Vivitrol experienced a huge reduction in the desire to abuse opioids. In fact, their cravings for opioids were reported to be more than 10 times lower than among those who did not receive Vivitrol.

Recovery is a lifelong process, and one that requires a strong commitment to sobriety. Vivitrol has proven to be helpful in building a solid foundation for remaining opioid-free. Vivitrol has proven to be a powerful tool for treatment, and one that can give individuals the support they need to end the cycle of substance abuse and improve their quality of life.

## Benefits of Vivitrol Treatment

Vivitrol is just one aspect of an individual's recovery. Our patients will not only receive medications such as Vivitrol, but also therapeutic services to help them move along in their recovery. Additional support services can be offered based on the needs of the patients.

### Is Vivitrol right for me?

When you receive monthly Vivitrol injections as part of a medication-assisted opioid treatment program, you will not experience the powerful cravings or other distressing withdrawal symptoms that would otherwise occur when you stop your opioid use.

Although Vivitrol interacts with the same receptors that are influenced by opioid abuse, it does not cause the disorienting high that can be caused by heroin, prescription painkillers, or other opioids. Thus, when you take Vivitrol as part of a medication-assisted treatment plan, you will have the mental clarity that is necessary to drive a car, go to work, fully engage in therapy, and otherwise participate in daily life.

## Mandatory requirements for the Vivitrol stabilization and maintenance program:

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Not experiencing acute opiate agonist withdrawal
- Not receiving opioid analgesics (e.g. must pass naloxone challenge test or negative urine drug screen for opiates)
- Must be committed to a psychosocial support plan
- Must be and remain abstinent from using substances of abuse (random screenings verified by urine drug testing will take place)\*
- Must obtain bloodwork upon request

### Additionally For Treatment of Alcohol Dependence:

- Diagnosis of alcohol dependence
- Must be abstinent from alcohol for at least 7 days in an ambulatory setting prior to initiation of treatment
- If also opioid-dependent, must be opioid-free for a minimum of 7-10 days before starting treatment in order to prevent unintentional withdrawal.
- Trial and failure of, intolerance to, or non-compliance with oral naltrexone, Campral and/or disulfiram, or a rationale is provided to support the necessity of Vivitrol injections

\*Failure to meet requirements or pass random drug tests could result in dismissal from program

### For the Prevention of Relapse to Opioid Dependence:

- Diagnosis of opioid dependence
- Must be opioid-free for a minimum of 7-10 days prior to the initiation of treatment in order to prevent unintentional withdrawal
- Trial and failure of, intolerance to, or non-compliance with oral naltrexone and or oral buprenorphine with or without naloxone (Subutex or Suboxone), or a rationale is provided to support the necessity of Vivitrol injections
- Initial authorization: 90 days