

HOW TO ACCESS VIVITROL FOR CLIENTS OF SAPC-CONTRACTED TREATMENT PROGRAMS



What is Vivitrol and how can it help my client?

Vivitrol is an extended-release injectable formulation of naltrexone. In April 2006, it was approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of alcohol dependence. In conjunction with concurrent conventional outpatient or residential treatment, Vivitrol has been shown to reduce alcohol craving, alcohol dependence, and relapse. Vivitrol is administered by injection every 30 days until an individual no longer feels craving or dependence that would heighten risk for relapse. Alkermes, Inc. manufactures Vivitrol. See www.vivitrol.com for more information.

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) has made arrangements with 3 of its contracted treatment programs to provide up to 3 monthly Vivitrol doses available at no cost to a limited number of clients of other SAPC-contracted outpatient and residential treatment programs. Vivitrol can only be administered in conjunction with concurrent participation in outpatient or residential treatment services. A pilot project involving these 3 providers last year found significant success in retaining clients through successful treatment program completion and in maintaining sobriety.

Who is eligible for Vivitrol?

Persons who are active clients of SAPC-contracted outpatient and residential programs and have a primary or secondary diagnosis of Alcohol Dependence are eligible to receive up to 3 monthly Vivitrol injections at no cost. Additional injections may be available on a case-by-case basis while supplies last.

Persons with the following conditions are not eligible to receive Vivitrol:

- Individuals who are pregnant;
- Individuals who are taking opiate-based medications, e.g., pain medications such as Vicodin, or illicit opiates, e.g, heroin; and/or
- Individuals with severe liver disease.

Before receiving the initial dose, persons may be asked to obtain medical clearance. Also, persons receiving the doses and their referring programs are asked to participate in an evaluation of the project conducted by the University of California, Los Angeles' Integrated Substance Abuse Programs (UCLA-ISAP). All client information will be handled in compliance with confidentiality regulations and requirements. Alkermes, SAPC, and UCLA-ISAP will also provide training and technical assistance for interested providers.

How do I arrange for making a referral of a client to receive Vivitrol?

Contact one of the following organizations and their identified program coordinator to arrange for referring a client to receive Vivitrol:

Behavioral Health Services – John Kirby at (562) 673-0975 and jkirby@bhs-inc.org
Prototypes – Shantal Rodriguez at (909) 398-4383 and srodriguez@prototypes.org
Tarzana Treatment Centers – Jim Sorg at (818) 654-3911 and jsorg@tarzanatc.org

For more information, contact Wayne Sugita at SAPC, (626) 299-4571 or wsugita@ph.lacounty.gov.