



## The Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership (CT BHP)

The CT BHP is a behavioral health service system developed to improve the quality of, and access to, services for the individuals and families enrolled in the state's HUSKY Health Plan.

For more information, visit [ctbhp.com](https://ctbhp.com) or contact customer service at **877-552-8247**. Hearing-impaired members, dial **711** Relay Services.

## Resources

For a listing of member resources, visit [ctbhp.com](https://ctbhp.com) and select *Services* then the *Medications for Substance Use Disorders* drop down.

### For more information about MAUD

To find the *Medications for Substance Use Disorders* provider locator map and information on transportation for HUSKY members, visit [ctbhp.com](https://ctbhp.com) and select *Services*, then select the *Medications for Substance Use Disorders* drop down and select the *HUSKY Provider Locator Map*.

Administered by



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# Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder (MAUD)

Member Information



# What are medications for alcohol use disorder (MAUD)?

Medications for alcohol use disorder (MAUD) have been shown to support recovery from alcohol use disorder (AUD). Three medications (naltrexone, acamprosate, and disulfiram) are FDA-approved for the treatment of AUD. They can help individuals to reduce drinking, avoid relapse, and/or maintain abstinence. In combination with traditional talk therapy, and the support of outside groups and family members, MAUD is a successful approach to sustaining recovery over the long term.

Any care provider with prescribing privileges can prescribe MAUD. It does not require a special certification. Since the early months of recovery are especially challenging, it is important to connect to ongoing AUD treatment immediately following withdrawal management when the risk of relapse is the highest.

## MAUD services are covered under HUSKY Health

The Connecticut HUSKY Health program covers all three FDA-approved MAUD medications: naltrexone, acamprosate, and disulfiram. Each comes in various formulations under generic and/or brand names. Your doctor or healthcare provider will explain these to you. They will also discuss the benefits and risks of each MAUD option.

## Naltrexone

**What is it?** Naltrexone is a pill taken by mouth once daily or in an extended-release injectable (brand name Vivitrol®) administered monthly to treat alcohol and opioid use disorders.

**Benefits:** Naltrexone is effective at reducing the urge to drink by blocking the pleasure pathways in the brain. This may help you to drink less or stop drinking altogether. Naltrexone is also used for the treatment of opioid use disorder. The monthly injection makes it easier to keep taking your medication.

**Side effects and things to consider:** Your body should be clear of opioids (prescribed or not) for seven to 14 days prior to taking naltrexone, since it can cause withdrawal if you have been taking opioids. In some cases, naltrexone can harm the liver. Common side effects may include: nausea, vomiting, joint pain, dizziness, drowsiness, insomnia, fatigue, or headache. Talk about possible side effects with your care provider.

## Acamprosate

**What is it?** Acamprosate is a tablet taken by mouth once daily to treat AUD.

**Benefits:** Acamprosate helps to re-stabilize pathways of the brain and to support recovery.

**Side effects and things to consider:** Tell your doctor if you have ever had kidney problems as it may be safer to take another

medication if this is the case. Common side effects may include: nausea, dry mouth, pain, weakness, dizziness, insomnia, itching, sweating, anxiety, or depressed mood. Talk about possible side effects with your care provider.

## Disulfiram

**What is it?** Disulfiram (brand name Antabuse®) is a tablet taken by mouth once daily that triggers a severe reaction if you drink after taking the medication.

**Benefits:** Disulfiram blocks an enzyme that is involved in breaking down alcohol. Because it produces very unpleasant side effects when combined with alcohol, it can help you refrain from drinking.

**Side effects and things to consider:** Disulfiram can only be started once all alcohol has cleared the body, otherwise you may experience a severe reaction. Check all food and medicine labels to make sure they do not contain alcohol. In some cases, disulfiram can harm the liver.

Common side effects, in the absence of alcohol, may include: skin rash, acne, mild headache, tired feeling, impotence, loss of interest in sex, metallic or garlic-like taste in the mouth. Talk about possible side effects with your care provider.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Most common side effects are time limited and easily remedied. Not all are listed in this brochure. Talk to your care provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at **800-FDA-1088**.