

Naltrexone

What is it? Naltrexone is a non-opioid medication taken by mouth or as a shot.

Benefits: Because naltrexone is not an opioid, there is no potential for abuse. By blocking the effects of opioids, it stops the feeling of getting “high.” This helps prevent relapse. You can obtain naltrexone from an approved prescriber. It usually requires fewer visits, especially when taken as a monthly shot.

Side effects and things to consider:

You should only start naltrexone after you have stopped using opioids for a while. This will avoid withdrawal. Naltrexone may cause headache, nausea, and liver damage. Talk about all possible side effects with your care provider.

Treatment without medication

What is it? This option involves recovery without the help of medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). It can include individual, group and family therapy to support your recovery. It may also involve participation in self- help groups, such as Narcotics Anonymous (NA).

Side effects and things to consider:

Research shows the risk of relapse, drug overdose, and death are much higher when choosing this option. Please talk with your care provider to make sure this choice is best for you.

Resources

For a listing of member resources, visit ctbhp.com and select *Services* then the *Medications For Substance Use Disorders* drop down.

For more information about MOUD

To find the Medications for Substance Use Disorders provider locator map and information on transportation for HUSKY members, visit ctbhp.com and select *Services*, then select the *Medication for Substance Use Disorders* drop down and select the HUSKY Provider Locator Map.

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 or contact customer service at **877-552-8247**. Hearing-impaired members, dial **711** Relay Services.

Administered by



A02277CTMENCBH 0125



Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

Member Information



What are medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD)?

Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) are the most effective treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD), also known as opioid addiction. Common opioids include:

- Oxycodone (OxyContin®, Percocet®)
- Hydrocodone (Vicodin®)
- Fentanyl
- Heroin

MOUD can be used with counseling and support from family and friends to treat opioid addiction. Care providers can use certain MOUD (buprenorphine or methadone) as part of the withdrawal management process. This will help reduce withdrawal symptoms.

In addition, people who continue with these two MOUD (buprenorphine, methadone) right after discharge have a lower risk of relapse. That is because these medications reduce cravings that many people feel after withdrawal management. Also, if they do relapse, people on MOUD will not feel “high.” This can help get them back on the road to recovery.

MOUD services are covered under HUSKY Health

The three FDA-approved medications for treating opioid use disorder are methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone. All are all covered by the Connecticut HUSKY Health program. Each comes in various formulations under generic and/or brand names, and with different protocols.

Your doctor or healthcare provider will explain these to you. They will also discuss the benefits and risks of each MOUD option, as well as treatment without medication.

Methadone

What is it? Methadone is an opioid medication taken by mouth once daily initially at a methadone clinic.

Benefits: When taking methadone you will feel normal, not “high.” You will not have withdrawal symptoms or cravings. If you use opioids while taking methadone, it will reduce the “high.” Because you are less likely to misuse drugs while taking methadone, it reduces the chance of overdose or death. In addition, methadone works for people with both OUD and chronic pain.

Side effects and things to consider:

You may experience constipation, nausea, sleepiness, and sweating with methadone. Avoid using alcohol, sedatives (like benzodiazepines and sleeping pills) and drugs not prescribed to you when taking methadone.

This could lead to an overdose or death. Taking methadone with anti-anxiety medications can also be risky. Suddenly stopping methadone will result in withdrawal symptoms. Methadone also has the potential for abuse. Talk about all possible side effects with your care provider.

Buprenorphine

What is it? Buprenorphine is an opioid medication taken by mouth (usually under the tongue), as a shot, or placed under the skin as an implant.

Benefits: Like methadone, buprenorphine reduces withdrawal symptoms and cravings. If you use opioids while taking buprenorphine, it will reduce the “high.” You can obtain buprenorphine from an approved prescriber. That means you do not have to take it under direct supervision at a clinic. You can visit your care provider less frequently than is the case with methadone.

Side effects and things to consider:

You may experience constipation, nausea, and headache with buprenorphine. Avoid using alcohol, sedatives (like benzodiazepines and sleeping pills) and drugs not prescribed to you when taking buprenorphine. This could lead to an overdose or death. Taking buprenorphine with anti-anxiety medications can also be risky. Suddenly stopping buprenorphine will result in withdrawal symptoms.

Buprenorphine also has the potential for abuse. Talk about all possible side effects with your provider.