Clinical Policy: Naltrexone (Vivitrol)
Reference Number: CP.PHAR.96
Effective Date: 03.01.12
Last Review Date: 02.20
Line of Business: Medicaid, HIM

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description
Naltrexone (Vivitrol®) is an opioid antagonist.

FDA Approved Indication(s)
Vivitrol is indicated:
- For the treatment of alcohol dependence in patients who are able to abstain from alcohol in an outpatient setting prior to initiation of treatment with Vivitrol. Patients should not be actively drinking at the time of initial Vivitrol administration*
- For the prevention of relapse to opioid dependence, following opioid detoxification*

*Vivitrol should be part of a comprehensive management program that includes psychosocial support.

Policy/Criteria
Provider must submit documentation (such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that Vivitrol is medically necessary when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria
A. Alcohol and Opioid Dependence (must meet all):
   1. Diagnosis of one of the following (a or b):
      a. Alcohol dependence;
      b. Opioid dependence;
   2. If diagnosis is alcohol dependence, recent alcohol screening test (within past 7 days) confirms that member has been alcohol-free;
   3. Recent naloxone challenge test or urine drug screen (within past 7 days) confirms that member is opioid-free;
   4. Dose does not exceed 380 mg every 4 weeks or once a month.
   Approval duration: 6 months (12 months for New Hampshire)

B. Other diagnoses/indications
   1. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.
II. Continued Therapy
A. Alcohol and Opioid Dependence (must meet all):
   1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
   2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
   3. Member does not have concurrent opioid claims per pharmacy record;
   4. Evidence of adherence to Vivitrol per pharmacy claims record or provider’s notes; *If not adherent to treatment, member must meet initial approval criteria
   5. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 380 mg every 4 weeks or once a month.
   
   **Approval duration: 12 months**

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2):
   1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
   
   **Approval duration: Duration of request or 6 months (whichever is less); or**

   2. Refer to the off-label use policy for the relevant line of business if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:
   A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policy – HIM.PHAR.21 for health insurance marketplace and CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid, or evidence of coverage documents.

IV. Appendices/General Information
   **Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key**
   FDA: Food and Drug Administration

   **Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives**
   Not applicable

   **Appendix C: Contraindications/Boxed Warnings**
   - Contraindication(s):
     o Patients receiving opioid analgesics;
     o Patients with current physiologic opioid dependence;
     o Patients in acute opioid withdrawal;
     o Any individual who has failed the naloxone challenge test or has a positive urine screen for opioids;
     o Patients who have previously exhibited hypersensitivity to naltrexone, polylactide-co-glycolide (PLG), carboxymethylcellulose, or any other components of the diluent.
   - Boxed warning(s): none reported
Appendix D: General Information

- Opioid-dependent and opioid-using patients, including those being treated for alcohol dependence, should be opioid-free before starting Vivitrol treatment, and should notify healthcare providers of any recent opioid use. An opioid-free duration of a minimum of 7-10 days is recommended for patients to avoid precipitation of opioid withdrawal that may be severe enough to require hospitalization.

- Although the safety and efficacy of Vivitrol have not been established in the pediatric population, the consensus opinion of the American Society of Addiction Medication (ASAM) national practice guideline committee is that opioid agonists (methadone and buprenorphine) and antagonists (naltrexone) may be considered for treatment of opioid use disorder in adolescents. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that pediatricians consider offering medication-assisted treatment to their adolescent and young adult patients with severe opioid use disorders or discuss referrals to other providers for this service.

V. Dosage and Administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>Dosing Regimen</th>
<th>Maximum Dose</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol and opioid dependence</td>
<td>380 mg IM every 4 weeks or once a month</td>
<td>380 mg/dose</td>
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VI. Product Availability

Injectable suspension (vial): 380 mg naltrexone microspheres and 4 mL diluent

VII. References


Coding Implications

Codes referenced in this clinical policy are for informational purposes only. Inclusion or exclusion of any codes does not guarantee coverage. Providers should reference the most up-to-date sources of professional coding guidance prior to the submission of claims for reimbursement of covered services.

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<tr>
<th>HCPCS Codes</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>J2315</td>
<td>Injection, naltrexone, depot form, 1 mg</td>
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**Important Reminder**

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. “Health Plan” means a health
plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan’s affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

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**Note: For Medicaid members**, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.

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