

# Guide to Understanding Naltrexone Therapy for Opioids and Alcohol

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**You Deserve Freedom From Addiction.**

Learn how Naltrexone helps people get into  
recovery and stay there.



**The Path to Freedom Starts Here.**

# Facts About Naltrexone Therapy for Opioids and Alcohol

## Non-Addictive Medication for Long-Term Recovery

Completing a detox treatment is a monumental milestone. But this joy is sometimes followed by anxious feelings about what lies ahead. Maintaining sobriety can be challenging, and relapse can be a constant worry. That's why the Coleman Institute for Addiction Medicine offers Naltrexone Therapy following its Accelerated Opioid Detox and Outpatient Alcohol Detox.

Long-acting Naltrexone is a non-addictive medication that attaches to the opioid receptors in the brain without activating them. This means it significantly reduces cravings for opioids and alcohol, thereby helping patients succeed in their long-term recovery.

The Coleman Institute for Addiction Medicine offers Naltrexone Therapy in 2 methods:

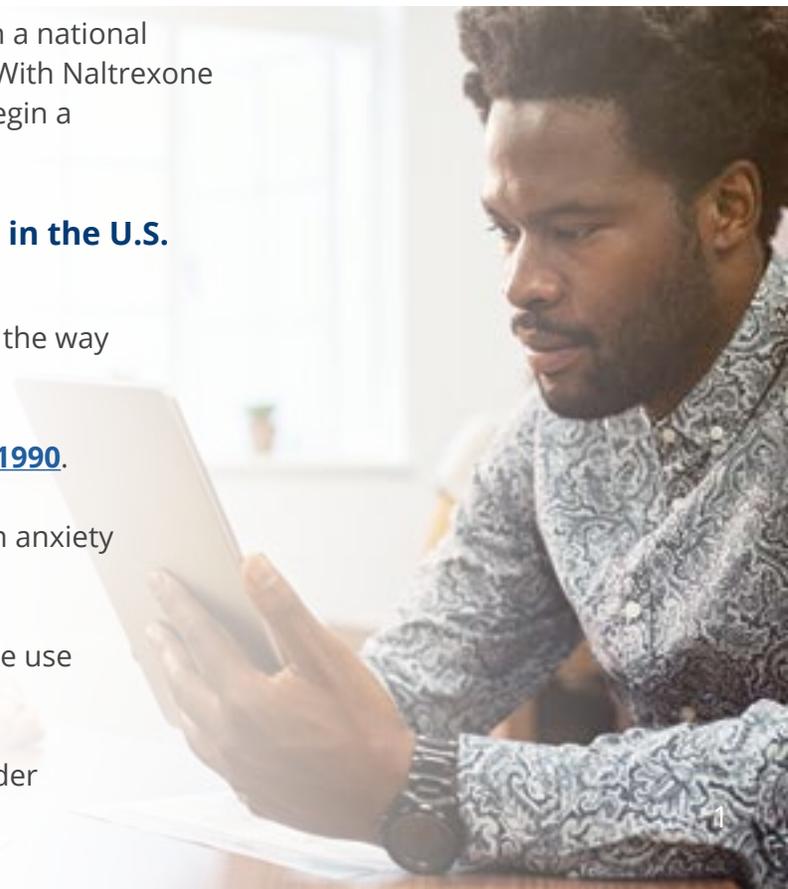
1. **A Naltrexone implant**, the size of a vitamin capsule, is inserted in the fatty tissue of the abdomen through a small, half-inch incision. A Naltrexone implant lasts up to 8 weeks.
2. **Vivitrol** is a monthly formulation of naltrexone injected into the large gluteal muscle. Many insurance companies will cover the cost of Vivitrol.

Both of these slow-release options give patients weeks of support at a time. To develop new, healthy habits and live a life of abstinence, the Coleman Institute for Addiction Medicine recommends that our patients continue Naltrexone Therapy for 6 to 12 months after completing detox. Naltrexone Therapy becomes a powerful support during the challenging first few weeks and months following a detox. If someone drinks or uses an opiate, the medicine prevents the patient from feeling high.

The Coleman Institute for Addiction Medicine has been a national leader in the use of Naltrexone for over twenty years. With Naltrexone Therapy, patients can find the strength they need to begin a life free from addiction.

## 5 Startling Facts about Substance Use Disorder in the U.S.

- **Systematically abusing any substance** can change the way your brain is structured.
- Drug overdose deaths have more than tripled **since 1990**.
- About **20% of Americans** who have depression or an anxiety disorder also have a substance use disorder.
- **40.3 million people** aged 12 or older had a substance use disorder in 2020.
- **1 in 7 Americans** will develop a substance use disorder at some point in their lives.



# Choosing a Detox Method that is Right for You

## Common Accelerated Detox Options and How to Decide Which is Best For You

Detoxing on your own is extremely difficult. Opioids like heroin, morphine, and codeine, and pain medication such as Percocet®, Vicodin® Roxicet®, and Dilaudid®, can cause physical changes in your brain. Most people cannot stop using them without a severe and intolerable withdrawal reaction, so many need to seek out professional help through detoxification. Detox can be the first step on the road to recovery from addiction.

### Choosing a Detox Method:

- **Self Detox:** Stopping suddenly is known as “going cold turkey,” which can be extremely uncomfortable. Most people try tapering or weaning themselves down, but this is rarely successful. This approach is usually so painful that most patients cannot tolerate the pain and resort to using opiates or alcohol again. Self-detox from long-acting medications such as Methadone or Buprenorphine can be even more drawn out and uncomfortable. Self-detox is not generally recommended due to the high probability of [relapse](#) and potential safety concerns.
- **Ultra Rapid Opioid Detoxification (URD or UROD), Anesthesia Detox, or Sedation Detox:** This inpatient, hospital-based method involves putting patients under general anesthesia and intravenously administering opioid antagonists such as naltrexone. This process of flushing the drugs out of their system can occur in as few as five minutes. UROD comes with a high cost and serious medical risks - and there have been fatalities reported.
- **Inpatient Detoxification:** Inpatient detox can take place in a hospital or rehab facility for several days to upwards of 30 days to entirely rid the body of opiates. Medical professionals supervise and administer the medications for pain and discomfort during the detox and monitor the patient for safety. This method can be costly and often interrupts daily responsibilities. It is essential to be aware that health insurance may not cover the length of stay it requires to detox completely with inpatient detox. The number of days required will vary with each patient.
- **Accelerated Opioid Detoxification using The Coleman Method:** Our unique approach, called [The Coleman Method](#), uses a combination of specific comfort medications and small doses of naltrexone to help patients safely and comfortably detox in as little as 3 days. At the [Coleman Institute for Addiction Medicine](#), 98 percent of patients successfully complete their opioid detox without the risks and costs of general anesthesia or the need to take an extended break from their daily responsibilities. We recognize that completing detox is just the first step toward recovery; behavioral and environmental changes are also necessary so that the brain has time to recover. After the detox, we use long-acting naltrexone to help patients begin recovery. [Naltrexone](#) is a non-addictive opioid blocker that reduces cravings and blocks the “high” from opioids. Available in both a one-month injection or two-month implant, naltrexone is highly effective in bridging the gap between detox and recovery. We recommend that our patients have 6-12 months of Naltrexone therapy following the detox. At the same time, they begin to work on their recovery program.

# Accelerated Detox Using The Coleman Method

## The Comfortable, Fast Detox

The Coleman Institute for Addiction Medicine has been a leader in detox since 1998. In 2001, Dr. Peter Coleman introduced accelerated detox using The Coleman Method as a safer, faster, and more comfortable recovery method. This method limits the pain associated with withdrawal. It can be completed in as little as 3 days so you can reclaim your life with little disruption to your day-to-day responsibilities.

### How it Works and What to Expect

**Before the Detox Begins:** Patients stop taking opioids 16-48 hours before their first scheduled appointment, based on guidance from our physician.

**Day 1:** Patients will be in mild withdrawal because they stopped taking opioids the previous evening. A licensed and experienced healthcare provider will administer sedatives and other comfort medications in the office and prescribe medications to take throughout the day. In addition, they will administer a micro-dose of naltrexone to speed up the healing process and make it more manageable.

**Intermediate Day(s):** The second day of the detox is similar to the first. Patients continue to receive more sedatives and comfort medications throughout the day. Physicians will adjust dosages to make them as comfortable as possible. Again, micro-dose naltrexone helps the detox process.

**Final Day:** By the final day of the detox, patients will have made significant progress. Under light sedation, the remaining opioids are gently removed from their brain, typically over 6 to 8 hours. At this point the detox is complete, we administer long-acting Naltrexone, and the patient can return home knowing that all of the opioids have been removed from their brain.

### Summary Information About Our Process

- Healthcare providers administer micro-doses of Naltrexone throughout the treatment to accelerate the removal of opioids from the brain's receptors, making the final day quick and easy.
- We also provide medicine to keep patients comfortable through this process.
- Following the detox, many patients choose Naltrexone implants for additional support as they start a new life free from addiction.
- [Vivitrol®](#), a once-monthly injection of Naltrexone, is also widely available to assist in relapse prevention.

### Benefits of The Coleman Method

#### Outpatient Care

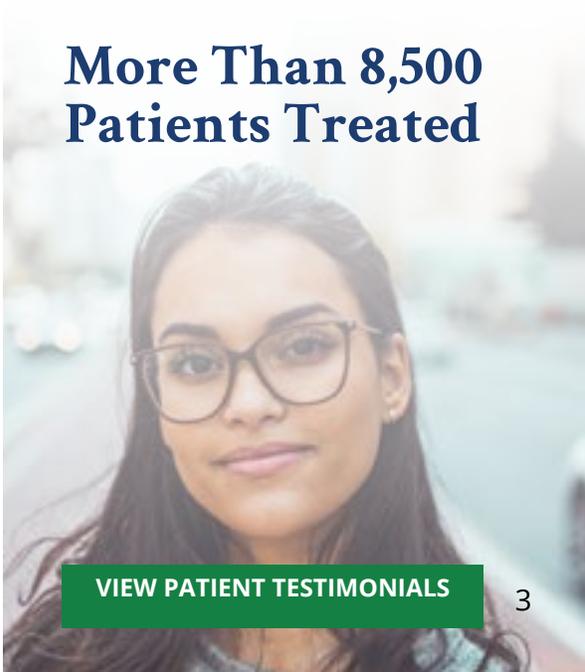
- Detox in as little as 3 days
- 98% detox completion rate
- No inpatient hospital stay required

#### Minimal Discomfort

- Safe, assisted withdrawal process
- Customized medications to reduce discomfort
- Caring, compassionate medical professionals who specialize in addiction treatment

#### Recovery Support

- Naltrexone therapy to reduce cravings and prevent relapse
- Access to recovery support services



**More Than 8,500  
Patients Treated**

[VIEW PATIENT TESTIMONIALS](#)

# Recovery Support

## Continue Your Road to Long-Term Recovery

According to the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#) (SAMHSA), recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential. There are four major dimensions that support recovery:

### Dimensions of Recovery Support

1

#### Health

Overcoming or managing one's disease(s) or symptoms and making informed, healthy choices that support physical and emotional well-being.

2

#### Home

Having a stable and safe place to live.

3

#### Purpose

Conducting meaningful daily activities and having the independence, income, and resources to participate in society.

4

#### Community

Having relationships and social networks that provide support, friendship, love, and hope.

Hope is the foundation of recovery. The belief that these challenges and conditions can be overcome is a core component of successful healing. Recovery is highly personal; you set your own path and your own pace. It is characterized by continual growth and improvement of health and wellness. Throughout your recovery journey, setbacks can be natural and can occur. Working through both anticipated and unforeseen setbacks is an exercise in resilience.

Relationships play a critical role in supporting your recovery. Family and friends often become the champions of their loved one's recovery journey. You may also experience adversities that lead to increased [family stress](#), guilt, shame, anger, fear, anxiety, loss, grief, and isolation. Addressing adversity requires the resilience of both you and your family members. Your family can foster resilience by ensuring access to intentional peer support as a way of promoting your health and well-being. Having access to intentional peer support is crucial as it promotes engagement with treatment. Recovery support should be flexible and from a person-centered approach. Person-centered care furthers your recovery engagement by actively involving you in treatment decisions.

# Support Services For Person-Centered Aftercare

## The Right Support at the Right Time

We strongly believe that detoxification without appropriate follow-up and treatment is almost always unsuccessful. Because of this, we encourage all of our patients to find a treatment program that will best suit their needs and begin therapy with an appropriate substance abuse facility in their area as soon as possible following detoxification. Types of pain medication treatment modalities include:

- **Clinical Case Management:** Case managers provide support by putting you in contact with recommended health and human services. A clinical case manager can help develop a treatment plan and help you connect with resources to begin treatment. By staying involved, they can help you stay on the right track.
- **Individual Counseling:** Often called psychotherapy or talk therapy, individual counseling is working one-on-one with a trained mental health professional in a safe, confidential, and caring environment. It is highly encouraged to research your mental health professional to learn more about their specialty (i.e., do they have the experience related to your situation) and their practice philosophy (such as core beliefs of the practice) to ensure a good fit.
- **Substance Use Group Counseling:** Substance use group counseling is a process where a number of individuals with similar issues or concerns meet as a group with one or more therapists or facilitators to process and learn from one another's experiences. Substance use groups tend to have higher rates of success than other treatment methods. Groups reduce isolation, allow individuals to witness recovery in others, gain hope, and often can draw them into a culture of recovery.
- **Partial Hospital Program:** Partial Hospital Program (PHP) is an outpatient model of care that is time-limited based on the medical necessity of services. PHP would serve as an alternative to inpatient care or is the next step in care after an inpatient stay in lieu of continued hospitalization. These programs are available at least five days a week but also can offer half-day, weekend, and evening hours.
- **Intensive Outpatient Program:** Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) is a series of sessions aligned with person-centered plans. This may include services provided during evenings and on weekends and/or interventions delivered by various service providers in the community. The program may be the next step following partial hospitalization, detoxification, or residential services. IOP may also be used to prevent or minimize the need for a more intensive and restrictive level of treatment and is considered more intensive and integrated than individual outpatient services.
- **Structured Outpatient Addiction Program:** Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (SOAP) is an outpatient program designed to treat addiction and/or co-occurring mental health disorders. Similar to IOP, the program operates five days per week, including evening hours, and is determined by specific conditions. The average length of treatment is six to eight weeks.
- **Residential Treatment:** Residential treatment is treatment taking place in an inpatient unit. Generally, it is between 30 and 90 days. Your individual symptoms determine the length of time. Treatment may or may not include medication assistance or dual-diagnosis treatment for psychiatric illness.

- **Trauma-Informed Services:** Some patients may require a trauma-informed treatment approach, as trauma may impact their substance misuse. SAMHSA defines a trauma-informed treatment approach to mental health treatment as one that:
  - Understands the impact of trauma
  - Recognizes signs and symptoms of trauma in the patient as well as friends and family
  - Integrates knowledge of trauma into treatment systems and practices
  - Works to prevent re-traumatization in the individual

Models of trauma-specific interventions for substance use disorders generally use a multicomponent approach consisting of working collaboratively with patients, families, friends, and human services providers. These individuals come together to contribute to empowering and educating about trauma and its effects, and train in coping and interpersonal skills.

- **Family Engagement and/or Therapy:** Substance misuse can affect you and your family members. Therapy can help you address any family-related factors contributing to substance misuse and help improve family relationships. Family therapy may involve educating the family about substance use disorders and their psychological, medical, and behavioral effects. It may also actively engage all family members in psychological therapy to address how family relationships may affect or be affected by substance misuse.
- **Medication Assisted Treatment using Naltrexone:** Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) combines behavioral therapy and medications to treat substance use disorders.
  - Naltrexone is a non-addictive opioid blocker that reduces cravings for prescription drugs, or opioids to help with long-term recovery success and block the 'highs' from opioids.
  - **Naltrexone Implant:** The Naltrexone Implant is a small pellet inserted under your skin. The implant slowly releases the medication as it dissolves, typically lasting two months.
- **Support Groups:** Community-based support groups include Alcoholics Anonymous, [Narcotics Anonymous](#) (NA), [SMART Recovery](#), [Refuge Recovery](#) and others. These groups are typically peer-led and many incorporate a 12-step program that encourages regular participation in meetings.

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