

Quick reference guide

Naltrexone for the management of opioid dependence

1 Guidance

- 1.1 Naltrexone is recommended as a treatment option in detoxified formerly opioid-dependent people who are highly motivated to remain in an abstinence programme.
- 1.2 Naltrexone should only be administered under adequate supervision to people who have been fully informed of the potential adverse effects of treatment. It should be given as part of a programme of supportive care.
- 1.3 The effectiveness of naltrexone in preventing opioid misuse in people being treated should be reviewed regularly. Discontinuation of naltrexone treatment should be considered if there is evidence of such misuse.

2 Implementation

NICE has developed tools to help organisations implement this guidance (listed below). These are available on our website (www.nice.org.uk/TA115).

- A costing statement explaining the resource impact of this guidance.
- Audit criteria to monitor local practice.

NICE is developing a suite of implementation tools to coincide with the publication of its drug misuse guidance (see 'Related NICE guidance' section).

NICE technology appraisal guidance 115

This guidance is written in the following context

This guidance represents the view of the Institute, which was arrived at after careful consideration of the available evidence. Healthcare professionals are expected to take it fully into account when exercising their clinical judgement. This guidance does not, however, override the individual responsibility of healthcare professionals to make appropriate decisions in the circumstances of the individual patient, in consultation with the patient and/or guardian or carer.

Further information

Quick reference guide

This has been distributed to healthcare professionals working in the NHS in England and Wales (see www.nice.org.uk/TA115distributionlist). It is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA115quickrefguide

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N1176).

Full guidance

This contains the following sections:

- 1 Guidance
- 2 Clinical need and practice
- 3 The technology
- 4 Evidence and interpretation
- 5 Implementation
- 6 Recommendations for further research
- 7 Related NICE guidance
- 8 Review of guidance.

The full guidance also gives details of the Appraisal Committee and the sources of evidence considered. It is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA115guidance

'Understanding NICE guidance'

Information for people who are opioid dependent and their carers is available from www.nice.org.uk/TA115publicinfo

For printed copies, phone the NHS Response Line on 0870 1555 455 (quote reference number N1177).

Related NICE guidance

- Methadone and buprenorphine for the management of opioid dependence. NICE technology appraisal guidance 114 (2007). Available from: www.nice.org.uk/TA114

NICE is developing the following guidance (details available from www.nice.org.uk).

- Community-based interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. NICE public health intervention guidance (publication expected March 2007).
- Drug misuse: opiate detoxification management of drug misusers in the community and prison settings. NICE clinical guideline (publication expected July 2007).
- Drug misuse: psychosocial management of drug misusers in the community and prison settings. NICE clinical guideline (publication expected July 2007).

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