**Naltrexone Checklist**

| **Take an opioid history** | • Tell me about your opioid use. What do you find beneficial?  
• Have you ever injected any drug?  
• When/why did you decide to stop?  
• When was the last time you used an opioid?  
• Did you have withdrawal symptoms? Are they finished? When was the last time you felt withdrawal? |
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<td><strong>Confirm diagnosis of Severe OUD</strong></td>
<td>• See DSM-5 worksheet (&gt; 6 criteria)</td>
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| **Ask about other drug use** | • Alcohol?  
• Marijuana/THC?  
• Nicotine/Vaping?  
• Recommend a quit trial if willing |
| **Discuss medication options** | • Naltrexone  
• Buprenorphine  
• (Methadone) – from a specialized program |
| **Check LFTs** | • If patient has a history of injection drug use or risky sexual activity, order Hep C/HIV and wait prior to starting |
| **Perform a COWS** | • If COWS < 5 OK to start naltrexone |
| **Prescribe naltrexone** | • Start at 25 mg (half a tablet) on the first day  
• If well tolerated, increase to 25 mg bid on the second day  
• Change to 50 mg qd on the third day  
• Plan to change to injectable (Vivitrol) after first week |
| **Order Vivitrol** | • See separate guidance on ordering and billing |
| **Offer Drug testing** | • See separate Drug Testing guidance sheet |
| **Offer supportive counseling** | • Teens attempting behavior change can benefit from supportive counseling.  
• Many teens with substance use disorders have co-occurring mood and/or anxiety disorders and may be willing to accept a referral for help with these issues |

**Disclaimer:** The Naltrexone Checklist Tip Sheet is offered for informational purposes only and is not meant as a substitute for independent medical judgment or the advice of a qualified physician or healthcare professional. The Naltrexone Checklist Tip Sheet is not intended to provide medical advice or clinical services to patients, to verify or acquire medical information or credentials, or to make any medical referrals. The Naltrexone Checklist Tip Sheet does not provide professional or medical advice or recommendations or endorsements through the Naltrexone Checklist Tip Sheet. Users who choose to use information or recommendations made available by the Naltrexone Checklist Tip Sheet do so at their own risk and should not rely on that information as professional medical advice or use it to replace any relationship with their physicians or other qualified healthcare professionals.