

# Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

*For Healthcare and Addiction Professionals, Policymakers, Patients, and Families*

*UPDATED 2020*

TREATMENT IMPROVEMENT PROTOCOL

# TIP 63



# **SAMHSA**

Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration



## Naltrexone forms

### Key Techniques for Reducing Injection Site Reactions<sup>52</sup>

To reduce severe injection site reactions when administering XR-NTX via intramuscular injection, use the following techniques:

- **Use one of the administration needles provided with the XR-NTX kit to ensure that the injection reaches the gluteal muscle.** Use the 2-inch needle for patients who have more subcutaneous adipose tissue. Use the 1.5-inch needle for patients with less subcutaneous adipose tissue. Either needle is appropriate for use with patients who have average amounts of subcutaneous adipose tissue.
- **Use aseptic technique when administering intramuscularly.** Using a circular motion, clean the injection site with an alcohol swab. Let the area dry before administering the injection. Do not touch this area again before administration.
- **Use proper deep intramuscular injection technique into the gluteal muscle.** XR-NTX must not be injected intravenously, subcutaneously, or into adipose tissue. Accidental subcutaneous injection may increase the risk of severe injection site reactions.
  - **Administer the suspension by deep intramuscular injection into the upper outer quadrant of gluteal muscle,** alternating buttocks per monthly injection.
  - **Remember to aspirate for blood before injection.** If blood aspirates or the needle clogs, do not inject. Change to the spare needle provided in the package and administer into an adjacent site in the same gluteal region, again aspirating for blood before injection.
  - **Inject the suspension in a smooth, continuous motion.**

A patient counseling tool is available to help you counsel your patients before administration about the serious risks associated with XR-NTX.

The above information is a selection of key safety information about the XR-NTX injection. For complete safety information, refer to the directions for use and the prescribing information provided in the medication kit. You can also obtain this information online ([www.vivitrolrems.com](http://www.vivitrolrems.com)) or by calling 1-800-VIVITROL.

Available online ([www.vivitrolrems.com/content/pdf/patinfo-injection-poster.pdf](http://www.vivitrolrems.com/content/pdf/patinfo-injection-poster.pdf)).