

Medications for the Treatment of Alcohol Dependence

REVIA (Naltrexone)

- blocks the ability of alcohol to induce the 'high'
- decreases the craving for alcohol
- if you do take a drink and are on this medication, you may not drink as much as you usually would
- cannot be taken if you are on strong (opioid) pain medications or with liver damage
- negative side effects could be feeling nausea, headache depression, dizziness, fatigue or anxiety
- cost is \$180/month if you don't have a drug insurance plan, there are some options for coverage if you are under ODSP. Talk to your doctor.

CAMPRAL (Acamprosate)

- reduces those feelings of not feeling right when you stop drinking, which is a reason some people go back drinking
- best started soon after you stop drinking
- negative side effects could be loose bowel movements or diarrhea
- cost is \$170/month if you don't have a drug insurance plan, there are some options for coverage if you are under ODSP. Talk to your doctor.

DISULFIRAM

- works by causing a reaction when alcohol is taken by blocking alcohol metabolism
- good for situations where alcohol is going to be there and you would like an extra reminder and motivator not to drink. Ex. weddings, holidays and flights.
- negative effects are redness in the face and neck, heart rate goes up and feels like it's pounding, feeling nauseated, dizzy
- not to be taken if you have liver, kidney or thyroid problems

- cost is \$50/month if you have a drug insurance plan, medication is not covered by ODSP. Talk to your doctor.

TOPAMAX (Topiramate)

- used now for migraines, seizures and bipolar disorders. Under investigation for alcohol
- can help by restoring the brains chemical balance. Can cause weight loss
- negative side effects can be skin tingling and numbness, headaches, loss of appetite, difficulties concentrating

BACLOFEN

- is used as a muscle relaxant and antispastic medication. Under investigation for alcohol.
- for some people greatly decreases the craving for alcohol
- negative effects can be drowsiness, weakness, headaches, nausea.

There are so many triggers/stressors that make drinking sound like a good idea at the time. Help protect yourself from those situations, so you don't have to return to the place that got you here.

Nobody grew up wanting to become dependant on alcohol So use all the tools available to improve your outcome.

