Naltrexone Injection Clinic

West End Clinic
Center for Addiction Medicine
Massachusetts General Hospital
Alcohol use disorders affect 10 to 15 percent of the general population. Along with psychosocial treatments such as counseling and self help groups, adjunct medication has been shown to be useful in reducing drinking and maintaining sobriety. One medication, naltrexone is available in oral (Revia) and intramuscular form (Vivitrol) and has been demonstrated to be effective in reducing alcohol consumption and assisting in sobriety. If patients fail to respond to the oral form of naltrexone, often due to adherence problems, an intramuscular injectable preparation is available (Vivitrol).

Patients who are able to abstain (even for a short time) from alcohol are appropriate for an injection of intramuscular naltrexone. As with all medication treatments for addiction, treatment with intramuscular naltrexone should be included with a comprehensive recovery program which includes psychosocial support. The West End Clinic at the MGH provides services for patients with alcohol use disorders and is now able to offer this medication option to patients. The West End Clinic also offers additional psychopharmacologic management, intensive outpatient programs, individual therapy, and group therapy. This multi-disciplinary approach greatly assists the patient and their family to receive the best care possible.

In close collaboration with the West End Clinic, a newly formed injection clinic at the MGH will be administering the intramuscular naltrexone. The injection clinic at MGH is also able to assist in navigating the often burdensome insurance issues, medication administration, and follow-up visits. The clinic is located in the Wang Ambulatory Care Center, Suite 815 and is staffed with two Advanced Practice Nurses: Gail Leslie, APRN, and Cally Woodard, APRN. Cally Woodard also works at the West End Clinic and has an expertise in Addiction Medicine. The injection clinic staff will coordinate care with the referring MD and the clinicians at West End Clinic for a multi-disciplinary approach.

To refer a patient for consideration of intramuscular naltrexone (Vivitrol) and/or for a suspected or known alcohol use disorder:

To receive the Vivitrol injection, patients must be in treatment at the West End Clinic (See “Next Steps” below.) If they currently are not, please have the patient call Adult Psychiatry Triage at 617-724-7792 to make an appointment at the West End Clinic.

Next Steps after Referral to West End Clinic:

1. As part of the West End Clinic assessment, the available treatment options for alcohol and other drug use disorders will be discussed and employed on a case by case basis. A thorough review of the patient’s medical and psychological status will be coupled with an evaluation for appropriateness of pharmacotherapy. The West End Clinic staff will collaborate with the Injection Clinic staff for patients who will benefit from intramuscular medication administration.

2. The Staff associated with the injection clinic will assist with the insurance forms, ordering the medication, etc. Please note, that the staff will only schedule an appointment for an injection when the injection has been approved by the patient’s insurance.

3. Throughout the process, primary care referrers will be updated as to the status of the patient in treatment.