ELEMENTS OF THE PATIENT EDUCATION PACKET

General information:
- Description of the Injectable Naltrexone/Vivitrol Enhancement Service Package
- Explanation of the Stabilization Period Option (opioid dependence)
- Consent form (Medication)
- Client informed choice
- Importance of compliance with regimen to include treatment

Medical information:
- Opioid and Alcohol Dependence as a chronic medical disorder
- List of possible benefits and risks of the medication
- Pharmacology of Injectable Naltrexone/Vivitrol: effects on the brain/body
- How and when it will be administered
- When the medication becomes fully effective
- Possible side effects and their expected duration; including injection site reactions
- Emergency conditions requiring physician notification and notification process
- Any cautions regarding daily activities
- Medication interactions
- Explanation of what to expect in recovery

Patients should be provided with a safety ID card to alert medical personnel to the fact that they are taking Vivitrol. This will help ensure that they receive appropriate medical treatment in an emergency.

Patients should be advised on the following:

Once Injectable Naltrexone/Vivitrol is injected, it is impossible to eliminate from the body; if problems occur, they can last up to 30 days.

The onset of Injectable Naltrexone/Vivitrol’s effect will probably occur within several hours although full effectiveness may not occur for two to three days following first injection. The duration of the effects appears to be thirty days.

Injectable Naltrexone/Vivitrol blocks the effects of opioid and opioids-like drugs (e.g., heroin, opioid analgesics, opioid-based antidiarrheals, and antitussives) for up to 30 days, which may complicate the treatment of pain if it occurs during this period. Patients should be assured that other options for analgesia exist.

Injectable Naltrexone/Vivitrol blocks low to moderated doses of opioids, but large doses of heroin or other opioid may lead to serious injury, coma, or death. For patients with a history of opioid use, the use of Injectable Naltrexone/Vivitrol may lower tolerance for opioids, resulting in a greater sensitivity to lower doses of opioids after injectable naltrexone treatment is discontinued.

Patients must understand that the use of Injectable Naltrexone/Vivitrol does not neutralize the intoxication or impairment caused by drinking alcohol. If patients drink and drive, they are still considered impaired and under the influence alcohol. The legal and safety consequences of operating a motor vehicle above the legal limit will still apply.

Injectable Naltrexone/Vivitrol is more likely to reduce cravings if it is used in conjunction with psychosocial interventions, such as specialized substance abuse treatment and community supports that include counseling, twelve step, etc.