



Alcohol Pharmacotherapies Call-back Service

PATIENT INFORMATION

- Your doctor has referred you to a new service provided by the Alcohol and Drug Information Service (telephone counselling, support and referral). It is called -

“Call-back service for Alcohol Pharmacotherapies”

- alcohol pharmacotherapies are medications that are used to help people stop drinking.
- This is a confidential service and your privacy will be respected.
- All contact will be via the telephone. The counsellor will ring you when it is convenient for you.
- A counsellor will contact you in the next 48 hours and discuss developing a counselling plan to assist you with your goals about your drinking.
- Whilst information will be kept for project purposes you will not be identified by this information.
- You will be invited to participate in evaluation.

If you have any questions about the service, call the Alcohol and Drug Information Service on **9442 5000** or for country callers **1800 198 024** and ask to speak to the project officer about the Alcohol Pharmacotherapies Call-back Service.

(Please turn over for more information)

Doctor – Please give this information to your patient



This project is funded by a grant from the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation Ltd. The Alcohol and Drug Information Service (9442 5000 or for country callers 1800 098 024) is a state-wide service of the Drug and Alcohol Office, Government of Western Australia



Frequently asked questions

What are alcohol pharmacotherapies?

- This term is used to describe medications prescribed by doctors that are used to assist people in stopping drinking.

How long do I have to be on them?

- This would depend on you and your doctor.
- Most people stay on these medications for 3 – 6 months.

Are there any side effects?

- Some people describe feeling sick or having diarrhoea for a few days after they start taking Campral ®.
- Some people say that they get a bit depressed or feel flat when taking Naltrexone, whilst others say they feel a bit sick and get a headache.
- If you are taking Naltrexone ® – your doctor would have told you about not being able to use strong opiate based pain killers.
- Most people say that side effects get better after one to two weeks.
- Make sure you check any information that comes with the medication.

What if I don't like the medication?

- If the medication doesn't agree with you or you don't like the medication you need to tell your doctor.
- Your doctor may want you to try another medication.

What if I start drinking again?

- This sometimes happens when someone changes their drinking pattern and makes an attempt to stop. This is called relapse and is a normal part of change.
- Keep taking the medication and talk to your doctor or the counsellor about what is happening for you.

Is this a magic bullet?

- Whilst medications do help people to stop drinking – they are not magic bullets.
- People do better on medication if they are supported by family, friends and professionals.

Is the call-back service going to help me?

- People who have taken these medications say that they had a better outcome if they did counselling too. The call-back service will provide counselling support and information and feedback to you and your GP.



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