

# DRUG THERAPIES

Drug therapies for opiate and Heroin addiction are aimed at prevention of addictive behaviors (i.e. drug-seeking, lying, stealing, and overdosing) and in turn attempt to avoid incarcerations and untimely deaths due to this disease. Currently we have no FDA approved drugs that actually revert an individual back to their normal pre-addictive state (Possibly Ibogaine?). The drugs available today either attempt to move the addict from their present state to a drug dependent state i.e. no addictive behaviors (Methadone/Suboxone) or to a drug abstinent state (Vivitrol). Ongoing research is underway to develop a new class of drugs that will not only rid the addicted individual of their drug seeking activity, but change their brain chemistry back to its pre-dependent state.

## METHADONE

- \*Intended to trade Addiction for Dependence
- + Pure opioid (Less Euphoric Potential)/Addictive
- + Administered through Federally regulated clinic
- + Suppresses cravings and withdrawal symptoms
- + Decreases euphoria when other opioids are used
- + Decreases mortality from opioid addiction
- + Requires 24 hour dosing



## SUBUTEX & SUBOXONE (BUPRENORPHINE & BUPRENORPHINE/NALOXONE)

- \*Intended to trade Addiction for Dependence
- ✗ Partial Opioid (Addictive)/ + Anti-Opioid
- ✗ May be prescribed by a Healthcare Provider
- ✗ Suppresses withdrawal symptoms and opioid cravings
- ✗ Does not cause euphoria in the opioid-dependent patient
- ✗ Blocks effects of other problem opioids for at least 24 hours
- ✗ Abuse potential substantially lower than methadone
- ✗ \*Requires 24 hour dosing (Sublingual Film)

## VIVITROL (NALTREXONE)

- ✗ \*\*\*Trades Addiction for INdependence
- ✗ Non-Opioid (No Addictive or Dependence Potential!!)
- ✗ May be prescribed by a Healthcare Provider
- ✗ Requires addicted individual to be abstinent from opioids for approximately 7-10 days before use
- ✗ \*Extended Release (IM injection) every 30days vs Daily Oral Tab
- ✗ Does not suppress opioid withdrawal, may have opioid cravings
- ✗ Fully blocks euphoric effects or side effects if any other opiate used
- ✗ Concern regarding FDA warning of increased potential for overdose after discontinuing Vivitrol

## IBOGAINE

- ✗ Non-Addictive
- ✗ Alkaloid from the root bark of a central West African shrub- Tabernanthe iboga
- ✗ Alleviates physical withdrawal symptoms and reduces cravings during opioid detoxification
- ✗ Works to rebalance brain chemistry to a pre-addicted state by refreshing and resetting opioid receptor sites
- ✗ Unsure of exact method of action
- ✗ Not legalized in USA