

Choosing an Alcohol Use Disorder Pharmacotherapy: Medication Selection Tool*

Optional information

Patient Name:

DOB:

Date:

After screening and diagnosis of AUD, you may wish to use the following checklist to generate a suggested medication for your patient. Please note, this is an aid and not a replacement for your decision-making and selection process.

CLINICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO REVIEW WITH YOUR PATIENT		Suggested Medications**				
		Naltrexone	Acamprosate	Topiramate	Gabapentin	Baclofen
Check all that apply. Then, review the suggested medications next to each checked box, as an aid to your decision-making process.						
QUESTION A: What are your patient's reasons for drinking?		First line		Second line		Other
1 - Reward (Life more exciting, enjoyable, more fun, better times, more confident and relaxed)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
2 - Relief (To reduce irritability, to help forget problems at work/home, troubles with friends/family, poor sleep)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
3 - Combo of Reward/Relief	<input type="checkbox"/>					
QUESTION B: What are your patient's drinking goals?						
4 - To drink less	<input type="checkbox"/>					
5 - To drink less and to eventually abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>					
6 - Abstinence only	<input type="checkbox"/>					
QUESTION C: Which, if any, of the following conditions may be attributed to your patient?						
7 - May have PTSD	<input type="checkbox"/>					
8 - May have a history of significant use of cocaine or meth	<input type="checkbox"/>					
9 - May have anger issues	<input type="checkbox"/>					
10 - May have obesity/eating disorder	<input type="checkbox"/>					
11 - Experiences headaches	<input type="checkbox"/>					
12 - Has a history of seizures	<input type="checkbox"/>					
13 - Experiences anxiety and/or sleep problems	<input type="checkbox"/>					
14 - Experiences chronic or neuropathic pain	<input type="checkbox"/>					
15 - Has a gambling disorder	<input type="checkbox"/>					
16 - Smokes cigarettes	<input type="checkbox"/>					
17 - Has acute or chronic liver failure	<input type="checkbox"/>					
18 - Wants to detox at home despite being advised of risks of acute withdrawal	<input type="checkbox"/>					
19 - Patient is on opiates, including suboxone or methadone (Do not use naltrexone)	<input type="checkbox"/>					

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS AFTER SELECTING A PHARMACOTHERAPY

- If your first choice medication is not helping reduce symptoms, despite dose adjustments as appropriate, discontinue and trial the second most likely medication to work.
- Don't stop trialing until success occurs because with the right medication, success is achievable for just about everyone.
- Counseling and other supports should be pursued alongside pharmacotherapy in keeping with your patient's wishes.
- Provide appropriate withdrawal management and follow-up care.

To review national prescribing guidelines, find more prescribing information such as dosing and contraindications, and to access an online version of this Medication Selection Tool, please visit: cauds.org/clinician-resources.



*This tool is based upon "How I choose an AUD Pharmacotherapy" by Dr. Jeff Harries **Listed in the Canadian Guideline for the Clinical Management of High-Risk Drinking and Alcohol Use Disorder