

Typical Alcohol and Benzodiazepine Withdrawal Medications		
Medication	Dose and Duration	Reason for Administering
Benzodiazepines—choice varies depending on circumstances	Varies greatly depending on circumstances; may include symptom-triggered, adjunctive, and taper-based dosing alone or in combination	Comfort and prevention of complications
Thiamine	100 mg po daily, continue indefinitely	Prevention of Wernicke's encephalopathy
Folic acid (folate)	1 mg po daily, continue indefinitely	Prevention of folate deficiency
Levetiracetam	500 mg po bid for 10-14 days (one month for benzodiazepine withdrawal)	Seizure prophylaxis
Ondansetron	4-8 mg po q 6-8 hours prn	Nausea and vomiting
Aluminum hydroxide/magnesium hydroxide/simethicone (Maalox)	10-20 ml suspension po qid prn	GI upset

Typical Opioid Withdrawal Medications		
Medication	Dose and Duration	Reason for Administering
Buprenorphine/naloxone	Begin taper at least 24 hours after most recent opioid dose or when COWS > 10. 8/2 mg bid X 1 day then 4/1 mg bid X 2 days then 2/0.5 mg bid X 2 days then stop.	Dysphoria and malaise
Clonidine	0.1-0.2 mg prn q6-8 hours X 5 days	COWS > 6*
Ondansetron	4-8 mg q6-8 hours prn X 5 days	Nausea and vomiting
Loperamide	2-4 mg q6-8 hours prn X 5 days	Diarrhea
Acetaminophen	650 mg q6-8 hours prn X 5 days	Headache, muscle and joint pain

Naltrexone and Acamprosate Dosing				
Drug	Dose	Effect	Reasons to Use	Contraindications
Naltrexone	50 mg po daily	Reduces craving	XR naltrexone not available	Decompensated liver failure, on methadone or buprenorphine
XR-Naltrexone	380 mg IM q4 weeks	Reduces craving	May be effective for patients with comorbid AUD and OUD	Decompensated liver failure, on methadone or buprenorphine
Acamprosate	666 mg tid, 333 mg tid if CrCl* 30-50	Reduces craving	Can use with methadone or buprenorphine	CrCl<30*

*CrCL = Creatinine Clearance (eGFR can be used as an approximation if CrCl is not available)

From the article:
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 with **Joshua Sonkiss, MD**
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Commonly Misused Medications in Correctional Settings and Their Nicknames	
Drug	Nicknames
Benzodiazepines	Zannies, K-pin, Tranks, Vs
Bupropion	Barnies, Wellies, Jailhouse Coke
Buspirone	Booze bar
Gabapentin	Gabbies, Johnnies, Morontin
Quetiapine	Suzie-Q, Quell, Q-ball when combined with heroin or other drugs
Stimulants	Addies, Bennies, Vitamin R, Smarties
Topiramate	Dopamax, Stupamax
Trazodone	Sleepeasy

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