

## “Injectable Medications”

### Episode Overview

In this episode, I explore how long-acting injectable medications, like Vivitrol, Sublocade, and Brixadi, are reshaping treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) by reducing daily dosing burdens and improving treatment adherence. I review evidence on their clinical effectiveness, reported patient experiences, and the practical and ethical considerations involved in implementing these medications in both community and carceral settings.



- Long-acting injectables provide sustained medication levels that support engagement in treatment and reduce relapse risk.
- Vivitrol blocks opioid receptors, while Sublocade and Brixadi deliver buprenorphine over time via monthly or weekly injections.
- Interest in injectables is growing rapidly, with real-world prescribing increasing even as overall buprenorphine use declines.

### TAKEAWAYS

- ✓ Evidence shows strong clinical benefits: reduced relapse, increased abstinence, improved mental well-being, and greater patient satisfaction compared to placebo or daily dosing.
- ✓ High costs, provider hesitation, and logistical barriers—especially in correctional settings—pose significant challenges to equitable implementation.

## References & Future Reading

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