

## Contrave

Contrave is a new medication which has been approved by the FDA for weight loss. It is a combination of naltrexone (Vivitrol, Revia) and bupropion (Wellbutrin). It contains a black box warning for suicidal thoughts and behaviors, plus for neuropsychiatric reactions. It is not approved for pediatric patients. It is indicated for patients determined to be obese or overweight with at least one comorbid condition, such as diabetes mellitus. It is to be combined with a reduced calorie diet and increased physical activity. Bupropion has been used to limit smoking, and both bupropion and naltrexone have action in the rewards and craving systems in the brain.

Dosing is : week 1: 1 tab qam

week 2: 1 tab qam and 1 tab qpm

week 3: 2 tabs qam and 1 tab qpm

week 4 and maintenance: 2 tabs qam and 2 tabs qpm.

Because neither of the two active ingredients is a controlled drug, this product does not fall under the DEA guidelines for limited refills or prescribing.