INITIATING PHARMACOLOGIC TREATMENT, continued

• ALTERNATIVE: Disulfiram: For use if patients have the treatment goal of reducing or abstaining from alcohol use. (A3)
  - Clinicians should consider disulfiram for individuals with AUD who have responded to or are intolerant of naltrexone or acamprosate, or who may prefer disulfiram. (A3)
  - Clinicians should advise patients that they should not take disulfiram until they have been abstinent from alcohol for 12 hours or longer. (A3)
  - Clinicians should emphasize the importance of avoiding alcohol consumption in all forms to patients taking disulfiram. (A3)
  - Clinicians should perform baseline liver function testing, including aspartate aminotransferase (AST)/alanine aminotransferase (ALT) levels, before initiating disulfiram treatment. (A2)
  • In patients with AST/ALT levels >3 to 5 times the upper limit of normal, clinicians should avoid treatment with disulfiram. (A3)
  • Clinicians should repeat liver function testing at least monthly during the first 3 months of treatment and every 3 months thereafter while the patient is taking disulfiram. (A3)
  • Clinicians should discontinue disulfiram treatment in any individual with signs or symptoms of acute hepatitis or acute liver failure. (A3)

• Contraindications: Clinicians should not prescribe disulfiram for patients who have recent or concomitant use of metronidazole, paraldehyde, alcohol, or alcohol-containing preparations (e.g., cough syrups, tonics); coronary artery disease; recent myocardial infarction; psychoses; or signs or symptoms of acute hepatitis or acute liver failure. (A2)

• ALTERNATIVES: Gabapentin or Topiramate: For use if patients have the treatment goal of reducing or abstaining from alcohol use. Clinicians should consider gabapentin or topiramate for individuals with AUD who have responded to or are intolerant of naltrexone or acamprosate, or who may prefer gabapentin or topiramate. (A3)
• If there is a strong concern about gabapentin misuse or diversion, individuals may take gabapentin for recreational purposes, to control mood or anxiety, to intensify the effects of substance use disorder medication, or for intentional self-harm.

- Individuals may take gabapentin for recreational purposes, to control mood or anxiety, to intensify the effects of substance use disorder medication, or for intentional self-harm.

- Educate patients taking disulfiram that alcohol may be found in cough and cold medicines, mouthwashes, tonics, sauces, vinegars, and other food or skin products.

- Advise patients to carry a wallet card or wear a medication bracelet that states they are taking disulfiram so this information will be available to emergency personnel in case of a severe adverse reaction [NIAAA 2005].

- Inform patients of the disulfiram–alcohol reaction [c], reinforce complete abstinence from any form of alcohol.

- Advise patients to initiate disulfiram only after 12 hours of abstinence.

- Perform baseline liver testing before initiating disulfiram treatment.

- In patients with AST/ALT levels >3 to 5 times the upper limit of normal, avoid treatment with disulfiram.

- Repeat liver function testing at least monthly during the first 3 months of treatment and every 3 months thereafter while patient is taking disulfiram.

- Inform patients of the disulfiram–alcohol reaction [c], reinforce complete abstinence from any form of alcohol.

- Advise patients to initiate disulfiram only after 12 hours of abstinence.

- Perform baseline liver testing before initiating disulfiram treatment.

- In patients with AST/ALT levels >3 to 5 times the upper limit of normal, avoid treatment with disulfiram.

- Repeat liver function testing at least monthly during the first 3 months of treatment and every 3 months thereafter while patient is taking disulfiram.

- Contraindication: Recent or concomitant use of metronidazole, paraldehyde, alcohol, or alcohol–containing preparations (e.g., cough syrups, tonics); coronary artery disease; recent myocardial infarction; psychoses; or signs or symptoms of acute hepatitis or acute liver failure. For all contraindications, see package insert.

- Use only in patients who want to completely abstain from alcohol.

- Advise patients to initiate disulfiram only after 12 hours of abstinence.

- Perform baseline liver testing before initiating disulfiram treatment.

- In patients with AST/ALT levels >3 to 5 times the upper limit of normal, avoid treatment with disulfiram.

- Repeat liver function testing at least monthly during the first 3 months of treatment and every 3 months thereafter while patient is taking disulfiram.

- Contraindication: Recent or concomitant use of metronidazole, paraldehyde, alcohol, or alcohol–containing preparations (e.g., cough syrups, tonics); coronary artery disease; recent myocardial infarction; psychoses; or signs or symptoms of acute hepatitis or acute liver failure. For all contraindications, see package insert.

- Use only in patients who want to completely abstain from alcohol.

- Advise patients to initiate disulfiram only after 12 hours of abstinence.

- Perform baseline liver testing before initiating disulfiram treatment.

- In patients with AST/ALT levels >3 to 5 times the upper limit of normal, avoid treatment with disulfiram.

- Repeat liver function testing at least monthly during the first 3 months of treatment and every 3 months thereafter while patient is taking disulfiram.

- Contraindication: Recent or concomitant use of metronidazole, paraldehyde, alcohol, or alcohol–containing preparations (e.g., cough syrups, tonics); coronary artery disease; recent myocardial infarction; psychoses; or signs or symptoms of acute hepatitis or acute liver failure. For all contraindications, see package insert.

- Use only in patients who want to completely abstain from alcohol.

- Advise patients to initiate disulfiram only after 12 hours of abstinence.

- Perform baseline liver testing before initiating disulfiram treatment.

- In patients with AST/ALT levels >3 to 5 times the upper limit of normal, avoid treatment with disulfiram.

- Repeat liver function testing at least monthly during the first 3 months of treatment and every 3 months thereafter while patient is taking disulfiram.

- Contraindication: Recent or concomitant use of metronidazole, paraldehyde, alcohol, or alcohol–containing preparations (e.g., cough syrups, tonics); coronary artery disease; recent myocardial infarction; psychoses; or signs or symptoms of acute hepatitis or acute liver failure. For all contraindications, see package insert.

- Use only in patients who want to completely abstain from alcohol.

- Advise patients to initiate disulfiram only after 12 hours of abstinence.

- Perform baseline liver testing before initiating disulfiram treatment.

- In patients with AST/ALT levels >3 to 5 times the upper limit of normal, avoid treatment with disulfiram.

- Repeat liver function testing at least monthly during the first 3 months of treatment and every 3 months thereafter while patient is taking disulfiram.

- Contraindication: Recent or concomitant use of metronidazole, paraldehyde, alcohol, or alcohol–containing preparations (e.g., cough syrups, tonics); coronary artery disease; recent myocardial infarction; psychoses; or signs or symptoms of acute hepatitis or acute liver failure. For all contraindications, see package insert.

- Use only in patients who want to completely abstain from alcohol.

- Advise patients to initiate disulfiram only after 12 hours of abstinence.

- Perform baseline liver testing before initiating disulfiram treatment.

- In patients with AST/ALT levels >3 to 5 times the upper limit of normal, avoid treatment with disulfiram.

- Repeat liver function testing at least monthly during the first 3 months of treatment and every 3 months thereafter while patient is taking disulfiram.

- Contraindication: Recent or concomitant use of metronidazole, paraldehyde, alcohol, or alcohol–containing preparations (e.g., cough syrups, tonics); coronary artery disease; recent myocardial infarction; psychoses; or signs or symptoms of acute hepatitis or acute liver failure. For all contraindications, see package insert.

- Use only in patients who want to completely abstain from alcohol.

- Advise patients to initiate disulfiram only after 12 hours of abstinence.