

Dr. James Rigney, MD

I am an Internist with a long history of practice involving opioid addiction. I worked as a medical provider at the Bucks County Prison for sixteen years and have been the Medical Director of Today, Inc, a fifty five bed inpatient not-for-profit, drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility in Newtown, Pennsylvania, for thirty years.

I started a six bed inpatient detox program at Today five years ago in response to the needs of people with only public funding for treatment. I have done approximately two thousand detoxes there and would estimate that at least forty percent had spent over one month in jail.

For the past two years I have been doing outpatient treatment for opioid addiction using Suboxone, oral Naltrexone and Vivitrol in Doylestown.

I am presently maintaining forty patients on Vivitrol and suspect have treated another forty in the last two years I feel strongly that Vivitrol has a very valuable role in the prison population. It stops cravings and the ability to get high for twenty eight days, is not divertible and it is not an opiate.

In my testimony I would hope to encourage you to consider using Vivitrol as medication -assisted- treatment for the following:

1. Sentencing convicted drug offenders to outpatient intensive therapy with Vivitrol mandated instead of prison.
2. Early discharge of prisoners with drug offences to a similar program with Vivitrol.