

# Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) Programs to Promote Appropriate Medication Use and Knowledge: Physician Surveys on Experiences with REMS Programs

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## National Survey of Physician Experiences with Sodium Oxybate

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this survey relating to your experiences prescribing sodium oxybate. This research is being conducted by investigators at Brigham and Women's Hospital / Harvard Medical School on behalf of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). If you have NOT prescribed sodium oxybate in the last year, **please email Sandra Applebaum, MS ([sandra.applebaum@luminasllc.com](mailto:sandra.applebaum@luminasllc.com)) at Luminas, the survey administrator, and DO NOT proceed further.**

Your participation in the survey is voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time. Your responses will be aggregated with other responses and analyzed in a de-identified manner. The survey methods have been approved by the Institutional Review Board at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the FDA Research Involving Human Subjects Committee.

The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. In addition to the \$20 enclosed in this packet, following completion, you will be asked for your email address and emailed a \$80 Amazon gift card as a token of appreciation. This survey is not connected in any way with a pharmaceutical manufacturer.

We appreciate your contribution to this important topic. Thank you in advance for your participation!

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### Instructions for Completing the Survey

- As a reminder, you can take the survey online if you prefer at the following link: [\[link\]](#).
- Using a blue or black pen, place an "X" in the box next to the appropriate response as shown: .
- If asked to provide a written response to a question, please PRINT legibly in the space provided.
- If completing the paper questionnaire, please return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

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**Section A: Prescribing and Certification Requirements**

We will start the survey by getting a better understanding of your experience with sodium oxybate.

**A1. Approximately when was the last time you prescribed sodium oxybate?**

month       year

**A2. Approximately how many of your patients have you prescribed sodium oxybate to over the last 3 years?**

<sub>1</sub> 1-10 patients  
<sub>2</sub> 11-20 patients  
<sub>3</sub> 21 or more patients

**A3. Approximately how many women of reproductive potential have you prescribed sodium oxybate to over the last 3 years?**

<sub>1</sub> 1-5 patients  
<sub>2</sub> 6-10 patients  
<sub>3</sub> 11 or more patients

As you may know, sodium oxybate is subject to a special FDA safety program. Before prescribing sodium oxybate, physicians must go through a certification process administered by the manufacturer. The certification process typically involves such activities as reviewing certain materials, training, and filling out forms.

**A4. Approximately how many years ago did you first complete the certification process for sodium oxybate?**

years ago

**A5. How well do you recall the certification process that allowed you to begin to prescribe sodium oxybate?**

<sub>1</sub> Very well  
<sub>2</sub> Moderately well  
<sub>3</sub> Slightly well  
<sub>4</sub> Not well at all

**A6. Did the certification process for sodium oxybate provide information on the following risks?**

	Yes	No	I don't remember
a. Abuse and misuse	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
b. Birth defects (women of reproductive potential)	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
c. Central nervous system depression	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
d. Confusion/anxiety	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
e. Depression and suicidality	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
f. Liver damage	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>

**A7. When you start a patient on sodium oxybate, how often do you discuss the following risks?**

	Never (0% of the time)	Rarely (1%-5% of the time)	Sometimes (6%-25% of the time)	Often (26%-50% of the time)	Most of the time (51%-75% of the time)	Always/almost always (76% of the time or more)
a. Abuse and misuse	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
b. Birth defects (women of reproductive potential)	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
c. Central nervous system depression	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
d. Confusion/anxiety	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>
e. Depression and suicidality	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub>

f. Liver damage	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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**A8. Using a scale from 1 (most) to 4 (least), please rank the following risks to patients receiving sodium oxybate in order of their magnitude of concern to you.**

- |   |   |                      |
|---|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Birth defects (women of reproductive potential) | <input type="text"/> |
| 2 | Central nervous system depression               | <input type="text"/> |
| 3 | Confusion/anxiety                               | <input type="text"/> |
| 4 | Depression and suicidality                      | <input type="text"/> |

**A9. Using a scale from 1 (most) to 5 (least), please rank the usefulness of the following sources of information in contributing to your understanding of the risks of sodium oxybate.**

- |   |   |                      |
|---|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Clinical decision support tools (e.g., UpToDate, MicroMedex, ePocrates) | <input type="text"/> |
| 2 | Manufacturer sales representatives' presentations or materials          | <input type="text"/> |
| 3 | Professional colleagues   | <input type="text"/> |
| 4 | Studies and other articles published in medical journals                | <input type="text"/> |
| 5 | The drug's FDA-approved labeling  | <input type="text"/> |

**A10. At first, how frequently must the monitoring required for sodium oxybate be performed? If fewer than 10 weeks, please enter as 2 digits, e.g., 04.**

Every  weeks

**A11. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
a. It is reasonable that sodium oxybate has a certification process, while other drugs I prescribe for my patients with pulmonary arterial hypertension do not have a certification process.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
b. The certification process provided me with useful information about sodium oxybate.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
c. The certification process for sodium oxybate took too long to complete.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
d. The educational materials provided as part of the certification process should include information about any clinically important risk of sodium oxybate.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
e. The educational materials provided as part of the certification process should include information about how well sodium oxybate is expected to work.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
f. The certification process effectively explained the testing required of patients receiving sodium oxybate.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
g. Prescribers should be required to pass a quiz covering drug risks and testing requirements to complete the sodium oxybate certification process.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
h. Physicians should be required to repeat the certification process each year while they are active prescribers of sodium oxybate.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
i. Physicians should be compensated for having to complete the certification process for sodium	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

oxybate.

## Section B: Patient Initiation and Monitoring

As you may know, prior to and while taking sodium oxybate, patients are also required to follow certain “safe use requirements”.

**B1. To receive an initial prescription for sodium oxybate, patients must do the following:**

	Yes	No	Not sure
a. Get a liver function test	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
b. Get a pregnancy test (women of reproductive potential)	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
c. Get a urinalysis	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>
d. Receive counseling on sodium oxybate risks and benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>

**B2. When you prescribe sodium oxybate, how long, on average, do you or someone on your team spend explaining to patients the safe use requirements related to the drug?**

- <sub>1</sub> We do not discuss safe use requirements with my patients.
- <sub>2</sub> 5 minutes or less
- <sub>3</sub> 6-10 minutes
- <sub>4</sub> 11-15 minutes
- <sub>5</sub> More than 15 minutes

**B3. Who on your clinical team is primarily responsible for helping patients complete administrative paperwork or enrollment forms involved with the safe use requirements?**

- <sub>1</sub> I am
- <sub>2</sub> A nurse practitioner or registered nurse
- <sub>3</sub> A physician assistant
- <sub>4</sub> Other (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- <sub>5</sub> No one

**B4. Do your patients receive from you or your team any other materials describing the risks of taking sodium oxybate?**

- <sub>1</sub> Yes
- <sub>2</sub> No → **GO TO B6.**

**B5. What materials do you or your team provide describing the risks or harms of sodium oxybate? Please check all that apply.**

- <sub>1</sub> Published articles or stories
- <sub>2</sub> Links to manufacturer website
- <sub>3</sub> Links to any non-manufacturer websites
- <sub>4</sub> Pamphlets or brochures produced by the manufacturer
- <sub>5</sub> Pamphlets or brochures produced by you or your institution
- <sub>6</sub> Other materials (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

**B6. After learning about the safe use requirements for sodium oxybate, how often do your patients seek another treatment option instead?**

- <sub>1</sub> Never (0% of the time)
- <sub>2</sub> Rarely (1%-5% of the time)
- <sub>3</sub> Sometimes (6%-25% of the time)

- <sub>4</sub> Often (26%-50% of the time)
- <sub>5</sub> Most of the time (51%-75% of the time)
- <sub>6</sub> Always/almost always (76% of the time or more)

**B7. In your estimation, how frequently do you follow the monitoring schedule that is part of the safe use requirements?**

- <sub>1</sub> Never (0% of the time)
- <sub>2</sub> Rarely (1%-5% of the time)
- <sub>3</sub> Sometimes (6%-25% of the time)
- <sub>4</sub> Often (26%-50% of the time)
- <sub>5</sub> Most of the time (51%-75% of the time)
- <sub>6</sub> Always/almost always (76% of the time or more)

**B8. Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.**

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
a. The monitoring requirement is clinically necessary for safe use of sodium oxybate.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
b. The paperwork involved with the safe use requirements facilitates discussion about sodium oxybate between patients and me or my team.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
c. The safe use requirements are burdensome for most patients.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
d. The safe use requirements have often caused a delay in my patients receiving their medication.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
e. Insurance issues have often caused a delay in my patients receiving their medication.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
f. Insurance issues are more burdensome than safe use requirements for most patients.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

**Section C: Overall Experiences and Perceptions and Reforms**

**C1. Please rate how easy or hard it is to complete the following tasks related to prescribing sodium oxybate.**

	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Neither easy nor hard	Somewhat hard	Very hard
a. The physician certification process	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
b. The patient enrollment process	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
c. Monitoring patients	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
d. Reporting monitoring findings	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

**C2. How willing would you be to prescribe sodium oxybate if it was not subject to...?**

	Very willing	Somewhat willing	Neither willing nor unwilling	Somewhat unwilling	Very unwilling
a. Physician certification requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
b. Patient safe use requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

**C3. How often are patients needing sodium oxybate referred to you by other physicians in your specialty because they are not certified to prescribe it?**

- <sub>1</sub> A lot
- <sub>2</sub> Sometimes
- <sub>3</sub> Never

**Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements:**

**C4. Overall, the positives of the ...**

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
a. Prescriber certification process for sodium oxybate outweigh the negatives.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
b. Patient safe use requirements for sodium oxybate outweigh the negatives.	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

**C5. What feedback would you give FDA or the manufacturer on the physician certification process for sodium oxybate? Please print clearly in the box below. If you need more space, continue on the back cover. Be sure to include the question number.**

**C6. What feedback would you give FDA or the manufacturer on the patient safe use requirements for sodium oxybate? Please print clearly in the box below. If you need more space, continue on the back cover. Be sure to include the question number.**

**Section D: Pandemic Impact**

**D1. Did you prescribe sodium oxybate prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020?**

- <sub>1</sub> Yes
- <sub>2</sub> No

**D2. IF YOU ANSWERED NO TO D1, SKIP TO E1. IF YOU ANSWERED YES TO D1, please rate how much easier or harder it was to complete the following tasks related to prescribing sodium oxybate during vs. before the pandemic.**

	Much easier	Somewhat easier	Neither easier nor harder	Somewhat harder	Much harder
a. The patient enrollment process	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
b. Monitoring patients	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>
c. Reporting testing findings	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub>	<input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub>

**Section E: Demographics**

**E1. What gender do you identify as...?**

Mark only one oval:

- <sub>1</sub> Male
- <sub>2</sub> Female
- <sub>3</sub> Prefer not to answer

**E2. Which of the following best describes your race? Mark one or more.**

- <sub>1</sub> American Indian or Alaska Native
- <sub>2</sub> Asian
- <sub>3</sub> Black or African-American
- <sub>4</sub> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- <sub>5</sub> White
- <sub>6</sub> Prefer not to answer

**E3. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**

- <sub>1</sub> Yes
- <sub>2</sub> No

**E4. What year did you graduate from medical school?**

**E5. Which of the following best describes your specialty? You may select up to 2.**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>1</sub> Allergy/Immunology      | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>16</sub> Ophthalmology               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>2</sub> Anesthesiology          | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>17</sub> Orthopedics                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>3</sub> Cardiology              | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>18</sub> Otolaryngology              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>4</sub> Dermatology             | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>19</sub> Pathology                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>5</sub> Endocrinology           | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>20</sub> Pediatrics                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>6</sub> Emergency Medicine      | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>21</sub> Physical Medicine and Rehab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>7</sub> Family/General Practice | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>22</sub> Plastic Surgery             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>8</sub> Geriatrics              | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>23</sub> Preventive Medicine         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>9</sub> Internal Medicine       | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>24</sub> Psychology                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>10</sub> Medical Genetics       | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>25</sub> Pulmonology                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>11</sub> Neurological Surgery   | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>26</sub> Radiology                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>12</sub> Nephrology             | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>27</sub> Rheumatology                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>13</sub> Neurology              | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>28</sub> Sleep medicine              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>14</sub> Obstetrics/Gynecology  | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>29</sub> Surgery                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>15</sub> Oncology               | <input type="checkbox"/> <sub>30</sub> Urology                     |

<sub>31</sub> Other (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

**E6. In what ZIP code is your practice located?**

**E7. In what clinical settings do you prescribe sodium oxybate? You may select more than one.**

- <sub>1</sub> Outpatient clinic (solo practice)

- <sub>2</sub> Outpatient clinic (group practice)
- <sub>3</sub> Community hospital (non-military/VA)
- <sub>4</sub> Academic hospital (non-military/VA)
- <sub>5</sub> Military or VA hospital
- <sub>6</sub> Other (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

**E8. What percentage of your professional time is spent in direct patient care?**

percent

**E9. Have you received any of the following from Actelion, the brand-name manufacturer of sodium oxybate, over the past three years? Please select all that apply.**

- <sub>1</sub> Speaker fees
- <sub>2</sub> Payment for membership on an advisory board
- <sub>3</sub> Research grants
- <sub>4</sub> Other benefits (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

**E10. Please provide your email address to receive your gift card: \_\_\_\_\_**

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY. PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR MAIL IT TO:**

*Adapt, Inc.  
Physician Survey  
5610 Rowland Road  
Suite 160  
Minnetonka, MN 55343*