



*A Warm Welcome*

Stay **DRUG FREE** to Ensure Your  
Baby has the Best Start on Life!

## NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

Taking drugs during pregnancy can pass through the placenta and then to the baby. The placenta grows in the uterus and provides food and oxygen for your baby through the umbilical cord. The umbilical cord can also pass drugs (including prescription drugs) to the baby during pregnancy.

When drugs are used during pregnancy, babies can be diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). NAS is a group of problems for newborns exposed to addictive, illicit or prescription drugs while in the womb, causing them to go through withdrawal symptoms after birth. NAS is also referred to as, neonatal withdrawal syndrome (NWS) or Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal (NOW).

## SYMPTOMS

### Short term (5-10 days)

- More likely to develop breathing or feeding problems and seizures
- More likely to have a longer hospital stay
- Stomach symptoms
  - Vomiting, loose stool, cramps, etc.
- Blood Vessels
  - Rapid heart rate, sweating, fever, etc.
- Brain Activity
  - Agitation, sleeplessness, tremors, high pitched crying, tense muscles, etc.
- Skin
  - Reddened fingertips, toes, knees

## PREVENTION

- If pregnant, and using any drugs, talk to your doctor, nurse, or healthcare provider **IMMEDIATELY**
- Don't stop taking drugs **WITHOUT** getting treatment from your provider
- If you are not pregnant, stop using non prescribed drugs and/or misusing prescription drugs before you become pregnant

## STATISTICS

(CDC, 2018)

- 7/1000 newborns diagnosed with NAS
- 1 baby every 19 minutes diagnosed with NAS
- 80 newborns diagnosed everyday
- # of babies diagnosed with NAS increased by 82% from 2010-2017
- The cost of a hospital stay for a baby with NAS is nearly 8x greater (\$1,000-\$8,000)
- Average length of stay for newborns with NAS was 11 days compared to 2 for other newborns

Understand that it is possible that your child still develops NAS if you take prescription drugs as prescribed by your doctor.



Georgia  
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