

The Baby's Team

Parent _____

Pediatrician _____

Nurse _____

Social Worker _____

Department of Children and Families

Community Resources

**Care of the
Withdrawing Baby**
Information & Guidelines



**Falmouth Hospital
Birthing Center**
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What is Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome?

Some drugs or medications taken by mothers during pregnancy cross the placenta and have a direct effect on the growing baby. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) refers to a group of symptoms that your baby may experience withdrawing from these drugs or medications.

Symptoms of Withdrawal.

High Pitched Cry

Sleeping Difficulties

Muscle Tightness

Jitteriness/Tremors

Sneezing

Excessive Fussiness

Poor Feeding/ Weight Loss

Rapid Breathing

Elevated Temperature

How You Can Help

You are encouraged to remain with your baby as much as possible and participate in their care.

Your baby will benefit from comfort measures such as

Holding

Gently Rocking

Limiting Stimulation

Dim lighting

Quiet Voices & quiet TV volume

Swaddling

Limiting Visitors

You can be a valuable help to your baby by observing for symptoms of withdrawal and reporting them back to the nursing staff.

You will be involved with the care of your infant including, feeding, diaper changes and learning comfort measures. Food will be provided for you during your infant's stay.

How is Neonatal Abstinence Treated?

Your Pediatrician will determine the best treatment for your infant.

A Scoring tool will be used to assess the baby for symptoms of withdrawal.

Nursing staff will need direct observation of the Infant at times throughout the shift to properly score the infant on the NAS scale.

The initial observation period is 5 days.

Once scores are 8 or higher medication may be needed.

The average stay on medication is anywhere from 2 to 6 weeks.

Every baby is different and the length of stay is determined by how well your baby is responding to treatment.

You can help by participating in the discharge planning with the entire infant's healthcare team.