



Screening for Substance Use During Pregnancy



Our health care team wants to provide you and your baby with the best care possible to begin a happy and healthy life. Substance use during pregnancy can put both you and your baby at risk depending on the type and amount of substances used. You should talk with a member of your health care team before using any substances during pregnancy, including prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, alcohol, street drugs, and herbal supplements.

To provide the best care for you and your baby, our staff must know what substances you and your baby have been exposed to. Pregnant women will be screened (a short series of questions) for substance use during pregnancy.

If there is concern for substance use, your health care team member may discuss with you additional testing for you and your baby.

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The purpose of this screening is to:

- Discuss the risks of substance use for you and your baby
- Provide safe and appropriate care for you and your baby
- Provide additional care if you and your baby have symptoms of withdrawal
- Provide resources and referrals for follow-up care after you are discharged

Health care professionals involved in the delivery or care of a baby affected by substance use are required by law to notify the Department of Human/Social Services and develop a “Plan of Safe Care.” This is not a child abuse report.

A “Plan of Safe Care” is designed to help you and your baby access the supports and services you need to stay healthy. You, your loved ones, members of your health care team (doctors, nurses, and social workers), and county agency representatives will meet to create a plan for you and your baby’s care after discharge from the hospital. A “Plan of Safe Care” is not a child abuse report.

If you have any questions about this process, please talk with your health care provider. Social workers are available to answer questions and provide additional support to you.