

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome 383

Category.....I
Risk Level HIGH

Risk Description

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) is a drug withdrawal syndrome that occurs among drug exposed infants as a result of the mother's use of drugs during pregnancy. The condition must be present within 6 months of birth and diagnosed by the health care provider. This diagnosis can be self reported by the infant's care giver.

At risk if:	NAS is present within 6 months of birth – AND – Diagnosed by a health care provider
NOT at risk if:	NAS is not diagnosed by a health care provider within 6 months of birth

Reason for Risk

NAS usually affects the nervous system and the gastrointestinal tract. Loud, high pitched crying, sweating, sleep disturbances, feeding difficulties, poor weight gain, diarrhea and spitting up are examples of common symptoms.

How is Risk Assigned?

- ◆ CPA selected.

Additional Documentation

Document diagnosis, type of drug exposure if known and symptoms.

Education/Referrals

This is a HIGH risk level – a referral to the WIC nutritionist is required.

Example

Jeremy is now 4 weeks old. He is in foster care as his mother tested positive for drugs at delivery. His foster mother reports that Jeremy has been diagnosed with NAS and has been very fussy and difficult to feed. He is referred to the WIC nutritionist for specialized counseling. Jeremy would be assigned Risk 383.