

Risk 372 - Alcohol and Substance Use

Risk description

Any use of alcohol or drugs during pregnancy or any use of drugs or excessive use of alcohol during the postpartum period. Drug use includes but is not limited to marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine.

Reason for risk

Drinking alcohol or using drugs (either legal or illegal) during pregnancy is a health risk to the fetus and can cause birth complications. Drug use and heavy alcohol use are contraindicated during breastfeeding because the substances are passed to the nursing baby via breast milk.

All women participants should be advised that drugs and alcohol use are harmful when pregnant, can interfere with breastfeeding and impact the ability to appropriately provide infant care. Referrals to alcohol or drug cessation programs should be offered as needed.

Category	Women
Risk level	Medium
At risk if:	Pregnant women: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any alcohol use• Any illegal substance use• Any abuse of prescription medications• Any marijuana use in any form

	<p>Postpartum women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High risk drinking: Routine use of 8 or more drinks per week or 4 or more drinks per day • Binge drinking – 4 or more drinks within 2 hours • Any illegal substance use • Any abuse of prescription medications • Any marijuana use in any form for breastfeeding women only <p>Note: A serving or standard sized drink is: 12 oz. beer; 5 oz. wine; or 1½ fluid ounces of 80 proof distilled spirits (e.g., gin, rum, vodka, whiskey or liqueurs).</p>
<p>Not at risk if:</p>	<p>Woman is not drinking alcohol or using drugs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>Postpartum woman occasionally has one alcoholic drink</p>
<p>How is risk assigned?</p>	<p>Data system assigned based on information entered into the data system.</p>
<p>Additional documentation</p>	<p>Document the specific type of drug use or frequency and type of alcohol use in the data system.</p>