What Do I Need to Know?

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) can occur when a woman takes a prescription opioid medication as directed, misuses prescription opioid medication, or uses illicit drugs, such as heroin. These medications include those prescribed to treat chronic pain, as well as medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder. NAS is a treatable condition that occurs when an infant has withdrawal symptoms due to exposure to opioids in utero.

NAS can be caused by opioid medications that are legally prescribed and taken as directed, opioid medications that are misused, opioid medications that are obtained illegally, and illegal opiates such as heroin.
If not pregnant, yet sexually active with males, consider using a variety of family planning measures to avoid complications due to use of opioids during pregnancy.

Know the potential risks of interaction between opiates and other medications, including SSRIs like Celexa, Lexapro, Luvox, Paxil, Prozac, Zoloft, and seizure medications, especially if you have multiple providers.

For most women in MAT with methadone or buprenorphine, who become pregnant, the best option is to remain in treatment and not taper off or stop your medications.

If pregnant, find out the things to do to reduce the risk of NAS, including sharing a room with your baby, swaddling your baby, and reducing stimulus such as bright lights and loud noises.

If taking opioid medications, regardless if they are prescribed or not, consider talking with a medical professional to assess the situation and provide recommendations.

If pregnant or parenting, and think a problem may exist, call 1-800-688-4232 for information and referrals.

Most women and infants will benefit from remaining in MAT with methadone or buprenorphine.

Take Correctly, Store Securely, Dispose Properly, Never Share.

What Needs To Be Done?

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For more information visit projectlazarus.org or call +1.336.667.8100