What is NAS?

If you are pregnant and using substances or other kinds of drugs, your baby is at risk for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). NAS happens when a baby becomes dependent in the womb to the drugs his or her mother is taking and then experiences withdrawal upon birth.

What happens if my baby develops NAS?

Babies suffering from NAS may have to spend extra time in the hospital, possibly in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The length of stay depends on the severity of your baby’s withdrawal symptoms and how long it takes to wean the baby off medications.

Withdrawal from medications can take a week or longer. If your baby is healthy at birth, he or she will go to the newborn nursery for observation. The nurses will watch your baby closely and check for symptoms. In some cases, they will give your baby medication to lessen the withdrawal symptoms and possibly transfer him/her to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

If you are ready to reach out and get help for you and your baby, please call 406.871.7078 or email us at WrappedInHope2@gmail.com.

Providers and community members looking to support moms and babies welcome.
Possible Symptoms of NAS

Symptoms vary in every infant and can one, few, or all.

- Baby is irritable or difficult to comfort
- Does not feed well, spits up, vomits, has diarrhea
- Jaundice (yellow skin)
- Has a hard time sleeping
- Sucks very strongly or with no coordination
- Jittery
- Seizures
- Frequent Hiccups
- Mild fever/sweating
- Yawning
- Stuffy nose/Sneezing
- Increased Breathing Rate

How to Comfort your Baby

Babies experiencing withdrawal need extra support. Here are some ways you can provide comfort:

- Rocking gently
- Skin-to-skin contact, swaddling, or holding
- Offering a pacifier
- Less light and noise in the room
- Allowing baby to sleep, only waking when it’s time to feed

Breastfeeding and NAS

Breastfeeding may benefit and comfort your baby. However, you should check with your doctor and review all drugs and doses you are taking before beginning or continuing breastfeeding.

Get Help

Wrapped in Hope offers supportive services for each mom in need. Some of the services include:

- A dedicated patient care team that helps moms find and access all available social service, health and counseling resources
- Quality consistent care from medical providers who are compassionate and confidential and who respect mothers’ rights and needs
- Therapeutic support from licensed addiction counselors dedicated to the particular needs of pregnant women and their families
- Nonjudgmental and comprehensive prenatal care to ensure the health of mom and baby including ultrasounds and other screening tests
- Help navigating the judicial system, probation/parole and CPS systems