

OPIOIDS and WITHDRAWAL

When reporting on pregnancy, babies, families and substance use

LANGUAGE MATTERS



I am not an addict.

I was exposed to opioids in utero. I am not addicted. Addiction is a set of behaviors associated with having a Substance Use Disorder (SUD).



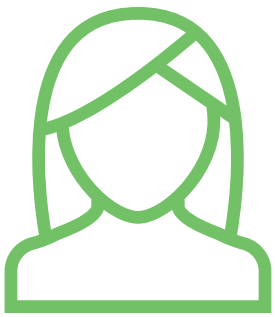
I was exposed to opioids.

While I was in the womb my parent and I shared a blood supply. I was exposed to the medications and substances they used. I may have become physiologically dependent on some of those substances.



Withdrawal is a temporary and treatable condition.

There are evidence-based pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments for Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal (NOW).



My parent may have a SUD.

They may be receiving Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT). My NOW may be a side effect of their appropriate medical care. It is not evidence of abuse or mistreatment.

My potential is limitless.

I am so much more than my NOW diagnosis. My drug exposure will not determine my long-term outcomes. But how you treat me will. When you invest in my family's health and wellbeing by supporting Medicaid and Early Childhood Education you can expect that I will do as well as any of my peers!



Learn more about Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal at www.nationalperinatal.org

 National Perinatal Association