OPIOIDS and NAS
When reporting on mothers, babies, and substance use

LANGUAGE MATTERS

I am not an addict.
I was exposed to substances 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 mother and I shared a blood supply. I was exposed to the medications and substances she used. I may have become physiologically dependent on some of those substances.

NAS is a temporary and treatable condition.
There are evidence-based pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome.

My mother may have a SUD.
She might be receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). My NAS may be a side effect of her appropriate medical care. It is not evidence of abuse or mistreatment.

My potential is limitless.
I am so much more than my NAS 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 Abstinence Syndrome at www.nationalperinatal.org

National Perinatal Association