



## READINESS

### *Every patient/family*

- Provide education to promote understanding of opioid use disorder (OUD) as a chronic disease.
  - Emphasize that substance use disorders (SUDs) are chronic medical conditions, treatment is available, family and peer support is necessary and recovery is possible.
  - Emphasize that opioid pharmacotherapy (i.e. methadone, buprenorphine) and behavioral therapy are effective treatments for OUD.
- Provide education regarding neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) and newborn care.
  - Awareness of the signs and symptoms of NAS
  - Interventions to decrease NAS severity (e.g. breastfeeding, smoking cessation)
- Engage appropriate partners (i.e. social workers, case managers) to assist patients and families in the development of a "plan of safe care" for mom and baby.

### *Every clinical setting/health system*

- Provide staff-wide (clinical and non-clinical staff) education on SUDs.
  - Emphasize that SUDs are chronic medical conditions that can be treated.
  - Emphasize that stigma, bias and discrimination negatively impact pregnant women with OUD and their ability to receive high quality care.
  - Provide training regarding trauma-informed care.
- Establish specific prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum clinical pathways for women with OUD that incorporate care coordination among multiple providers.
- Develop pain control protocols that account for increased pain sensitivity and avoidance of mixed agonist-antagonist opioid analgesics.
- Know state reporting guidelines regarding the use of opioid pharmacotherapy and identification of illicit substance use during pregnancy.

# Obstetric Care for Women with Opioid Use Disorder

Standardization of health care processes and reduced variation has been shown to improve outcomes and quality of care. The Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health Care disseminates patient safety bundles to help facilitate the standardization process. This bundle reflects emerging clinical, scientific, and patient safety advances as of the date issued and is subject to change. The information should not be construed as dictating an exclusive course of treatment or procedure to be followed. Although the components of a particular bundle may be adapted to local resources, standardization within an institution is strongly encouraged.

The Council on Patient Safety in Women's Health Care is a broad consortium of organizations across the spectrum of women's health for the promotion of safe health care for every woman.



## Obstetric Care for Women with Opioid Use Disorder

- Know federal (Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act - CAPTA), state and county reporting guidelines for substance-exposed infants.
  - Understand "Plan of Safe Care" requirements.
- Know state, legal and regulatory requirements for SUD care.
- Identify local SUD treatment facilities that provide women-centered care.
  - Ensure that OUD treatment programs meet patient and family resource needs (i.e. wrap-around services such as housing, child care, transportation and home visitation).
  - Ensure that drug and alcohol counseling and/or behavioral health services are provided.
- Investigate partnerships with other providers (i.e. social work, addiction treatment, behavioral health) and state public health agencies to assist in bundle implementation.

### RECOGNITION & PREVENTION

#### *Every provider/clinical setting*

- Assess all pregnant women for SUDs.
  - Utilize validated screening tools to identify drug and alcohol use.
  - Incorporate a screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) approach in the maternity care setting.
  - Ensure screening for polysubstance use among women with OUD.
- Screen and evaluate all pregnant women with OUD for commonly occurring co-morbidities.
  - Ensure the ability to screen for infectious disease (e.g. HIV, Hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections (STIs)).
  - Ensure the ability to screen for psychiatric disorders, physical and sexual violence.
  - Provide resources and interventions for smoking cessation.
- Match treatment response to each woman's stage of recovery and/or readiness to change.

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## RESPONSE

### *Every provider/clinical setting/health system*

- Ensure that all patients with OUD are enrolled in a woman-centered OUD treatment program.
  - Establish communication with OUD treatment providers and obtain consents for sharing patient information.
  - Assist in linking to local resources (e.g. peer navigator programs, narcotics anonymous (NA), support groups) that support recovery.
- Incorporate family planning, breastfeeding, pain management and infant care counseling, education and resources into prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum clinical pathways.
  - Provide breastfeeding and lactation support for all postpartum women on pharmacotherapy.
  - Provide immediate postpartum contraceptive options (e.g. long acting reversible contraception (LARC)) prior to hospital discharge.
- Ensure coordination among providers during pregnancy, postpartum and the inter-conception period.
  - Provide referrals to providers (e.g. social workers, psychiatry, and infectious disease) for identified co-morbid conditions.
  - Identify a lead provider responsible for care coordination, specify the duration of coordination and assure a “warm handoff” with any change in the lead provider.
  - Develop a communication strategy to facilitate coordination among the obstetric provider, OUD treatment provider, health system clinical staff (i.e. inpatient maternity staff, social services) and child welfare services.
- Engage child welfare services in developing safe care protocols tailored to the patient and family's OUD treatment and resource needs.
  - Ensure priority access to quality home visiting services for families affected by SUDs.

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## REPORTING & SYSTEMS LEARNING

*Every clinical setting/health system*

- Develop mechanisms to collect data and monitor process and outcome metrics to ensure high quality healthcare delivery for women with SUDs.
  - Develop a data dashboard to monitor process and outcome measures (i.e. number of pregnant women in OUD treatment at specified intervals).
- Create multidisciplinary case review teams to evaluate patient, provider and system-level issues.
- Develop continuing education and learning opportunities for providers and staff regarding SUDs.
- Identify ways to connect non-medical local and community stakeholders with clinical providers and health systems to share outcomes and identify ways to improve systems of care.
  - Engage child welfare services, public health agencies, court systems and law enforcement to assist with data collection, identify existing problems and help drive initiatives.

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