

Plan of Safe Care for Mothers and Babies

If you used certain prescription medications or substances while you were pregnant, the hospital staff caring for your baby will help you with a *Plan of Safe Care*.

This includes the following medications/substances:

- Prescribed opioids for chronic pain
- Prescribed methadone or buprenorphine
- Prescribed benzodiazepines
- Marijuana (prescribed or recreational)

What will be in your plan?

Your plan will:

- Explain how to keep your baby healthy. This could include supports such as financial help, child care and health care services.
- Connect you to resources. This could include public benefits, support groups, well-baby visits and information.

Who keeps the plan?

You'll get a copy and one will be given to your baby's primary care provider.

Will the hospital provide information about me or my newborn to DCF?

No, the federal government requires states to track the number of babies exposed to substances. Hospital staff fax basic information to DCF when a baby is born including what substance they were exposed to; but, it will NOT include any identifying information (e.g., name or date of birth) about you or your baby.

Will the hospital call the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to make a report?

Hospital staff are required to make a report to DCF **only** when there are child safety concerns such as:

- the use of *illegal* substances, except marijuana, during the last trimester of your pregnancy
- the use of *non-prescribed* substances or *misuse* of prescription medication during the last trimester of your pregnancy
- your baby has a positive toxicology screen for illegal substances or prescription medication that were not prescribed to you by a physician, with the exception of marijuana
- your baby requires treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) as a result of your use of *illegal* or *non-prescribed* substances or *misuse* of prescription medication
- your baby has Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- there are concerns that your baby has been harmed or is at risk of being harmed