



Focused Infant Care

What is Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome?

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (also called NAS) is a group of conditions caused when a baby withdraws from certain drugs they are exposed to in the womb before birth.

Almost every drug, prescription or non-prescription, passes from the mother's bloodstream through the placenta to the baby. Illicit substances that cause dependence and addiction in the mother also cause dependence in the baby. At birth, the baby's dependence on the substance continues. Since the drug is no longer available, the baby's central nervous system becomes overstimulated, causing symptoms of withdrawal or NAS.

In the average Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), an infant is seen during the regular rotation, every three hours. This means that they are often left to cry and to soothe themselves which can lead to bonding issues later in life. At this critical stage of life, infants in severe distress from withdrawal need immediate and focused care.

- Prompt Therapeutic Care
 - Baby's needs are met quickly and continuously, rather than at a set timed rotation.
 - Consoling and nurturing techniques develop healthier neural pathways in the babies.
 - Our staffing ratio of one caregiver to two infants allows us to be immediate in care.
 - "They cry.....We care."

- Individualized Medical Treatment
 - Each baby will have a specific medical plan designed to help him/her through withdrawal.
 - The plan is designed and updated by our Medical Director, a valley neonatologist.
 - Scoring through the Modified Finnegan Scale is one tool used to monitor withdrawal.
 - Through consistent staff communication, care for our babies focuses on what soothes them the best and gives them the highest level of healing.

- Skilled Medical Staff 24/7
 - Our highly trained, professional staff is comprised of RN's, CNA's, and LPN's.
 - The staff is supervised by an MD, overseeing every area of care.
 - Staff members are trained in specific nurturing and consoling techniques.
 - NICU experience and neonatal care is a key component to our team makeup.