



Parent Support

According to the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS), medical literature supports the importance of the involvement of mothers and their physical interaction with the newborns during treatment for NAS. Supporting mothers and caretakers, with specialized strategies to comfort and assist an infant with NAS benefits the infant throughout all phases of treatment.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends nonpharmacologic care as first-line treatment for infants with NAS. The research demonstrates that basic interventions, such as facilitating parent presence, can have a significant impact on NAS severity. Neonatal therapy must encourage visitation and also enhance the quality of time parents or caregivers spend with their baby.

- Promoting Parent Involvement
 - A needs assessment is given by our Behavioral Health Director in the first 24 hours of care to determine family needs.
 - Mothers or caregivers are encouraged to spend time with their baby.
 - Our trained staff works one-on-one with each mother or caregiver.
 - Visitation time can be extended for up to twelve hours as mothers or caregivers learn to care for their infants.

- Encourage Methods to Console
 - Decreasing the environmental stimulus and slowing down our interactions with the baby are key to consoling.
 - Teaching parents to read their baby's cues and respond to their needs will enable them to function as the primary caregiver of their child.
 - We teach the strategies and actions that soothe each specific infant.
 - The goal is to teach the child that their crying leads to prompt nurturing care.

- Non-judgmental Interactions
 - Addiction is not viewed as a moral failure.
 - Compassion is our sole motivation, never criticism.
 - By caring for the mothers of these babies, we embrace them with support and give hope for the restoration of their family.
 - Drug abuse affects all areas of our society; therefore, we treat with respect and dignity.