

## About NOWS

When a woman takes an opioid during pregnancy, the drug can pass from mother into the baby and may cause the baby to show signs of withdrawal after birth. This is called Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS), also known as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).

NOWS is a group of signs and symptoms in a newborn baby such as:

- Shaking
- Irritability
- Crying a lot
- Sweating
- Poor feeding
- Loose stools

A baby can have slight symptoms or can get very sick from NOWS. If the baby has NOWS, the baby's doctors will watch the baby closely. The baby's doctors may want to treat the baby to help them get better.



### Prenatal Consultation

(401) 274-1122, ext. 47405  
101 Dudley Street  
Providence, RI 02905

### Family Care Unit & Inpatient NOWS Treatment

101 Dudley Street  
Providence, RI 02905

### To contact the Family Care Follow-Up Clinic call:

(401) 274-1122, ext. 48935

### Center for Children and Families

50 Holden Street  
Providence, RI 02905



101 Dudley Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02905  
(401) 274-1100  
[womenandinfants.org](http://womenandinfants.org)

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# Opioid Exposure in Pregnancy

Maternal and Infant Support  
Prenatal through Toddler



## Prenatal Consultation

Pregnant women taking opioid medications during pregnancy may meet with a member of the Family Care Unit team to discuss Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS), and receive a guided tour of the Family Care Unit. Patients have the opportunity to meet members of the newborn service team that will help care for their newborn and have the opportunity to ask questions that may ease anxiety prior to delivery.



## Inpatient Observation in the Family Care Unit

Infants who were exposed to opioids during pregnancy will be observed for a minimum of five days in the Family Care Unit. During this time, parents will be involved in the care of their newborn. Babies identified with NOWS will receive additional inpatient care.

## Inpatient NOWS Treatment

If NOWS treatment is needed for a baby after mom is discharged, Women & Infants will, as available, provide a hospital room for mom and baby to stay together. Mom is supported and encouraged to help care for her baby during NOWS treatment. Daily family care rounds are held at 1:10 p.m. with a multidisciplinary care team that includes physicians, nurses, occupational therapists, physical therapists, researchers, and social work.

## Family Care Follow-Up Clinic

Services and evaluation are offered for all infants cared for at Women & Infants and other hospitals across the region who were exposed to opiates during pregnancy. Services from hospital discharge into childhood include medical, psychosocial, and developmental evaluation, family therapy, and assessment of baby's developmental milestones.

