Improving Identification and Management of Infants with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)

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**Identification of families at risk and care coordination between services**
- Maternal screening questions will be documented 100% in prenatal record or admission record.
- Implementation of process to initiate scoring, determine care location, medical and nursing providers based on algorithm.
- Prenatal referral for Neonatal/NICU consultation of 100% of families whose infants are known to be exposed to narcotics.
- Create a safe and effective discharge process for the transfer of care for the affected infant and family.

**Staff Development**
- Training and education of
  - Identification of Risk Populations
  - Understanding addiction
  - NAS scoring competency of 100% of staff (new staff within 6 months) at a level of 90% inter-rater reliability
  - Non-pharmacologic interventions

**Pharmacologic Management**
- Pharmacologic management will be standardized in terms of type of drug, weaning strategies and follow up in the community

**Parent Education/Discharge Planning**
- Develop family education tools for families of narcotic exposed infants.

**Change Strategies**
- Prenatal identification of mothers taking narcotics (licit and illicit)
- Antenatal identification of mothers taking narcotics (licit and illicit)
- Notification from community providers to hospital providers that a family is at risk
- Prenatal neonatal/NICU consult for education and care planning
- Refinement of process for medical and nursing care responsibility, including education of providers and clear implementation of process

- Identification and strategizing care of infants with NAS
  - Identification of specific risk populations and the process for medical and nursing care responsibilities.
  - Identification of strategies to keep families together when appropriate
  - Develop education program for staff about understanding addiction
  - Understand licit and illicit addiction
  - Strategies for working with families coping with addiction
  - Strategies for teaching families of substances exposed infants about NAS and other issues involved in the care of both the baby and family
  - Educate all staff about Finnegan scoring tool
  - Watch DVD scoring
  - Complete inter-rater reliability validation
  - Refine Finnegan scale tool for our unit, providing an area of tracking for non-pharmacologic treatment strategies
  - Develop a repertoire of evidenced based non-pharmacologic treatment strategies and educate staff in these
  - Utilize primary nursing model to deliver nursing care whenever possible

- Development of a structured and standardized process for pharmacologic interventions
  - Specific drug
  - Alternate drug
  - Weaning strategy
  - Follow up plan

- Development of supporting documentation and order set
  - Develop family education tools for parents of substance-exposed infants.
  - NAS scoring
  - Non-pharmacologic strategies
  - Medication use and safety precautions
  - Develop resource network for referrals of appropriate families