

NCCU CLINICAL GUIDELINES  
SECTION: 17

NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

Section: 17 Neonatal abstinence syndrome  
Home medication management program  
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Neonatology Clinical Guidelines  
King Edward Memorial/Princess Margaret Hospitals  
Perth Western Australia  
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## HOME MEDICATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

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The infant requiring ongoing pharmacological management of withdrawal from opiates may continue management in the home environment, providing that the family has access to appropriate support and follow-up.

Home management of the infant will prevent prolonged disruption to the mother-infant relationship, and provide health care professionals with opportunities to observe the family's ability to provide adequate care for their infant. All NAS infants discharged home on medication are to be referred to the NCCU Consultant/Senior Registrar Clinic and to the Home Visiting Nurse/HiTH for in-home support, and monitoring of weight gain and NAS symptoms.

See [Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome: Home Management Program](#)

See [WNHS Information Booklet for Mum & Baby. Women and Newborn Drug and Alcohol service \(WANDAS\)](#)

### OUTPATIENT FOLLOW-UP

- The infant and parent/s are to be seen by a Consultant Paediatrician or senior registrar at a scheduled clinic appointment within a week of discharge, and then weekly or fortnightly as required at the Wednesday afternoon WANDAS/NCCU paediatric outpatient clinic. WANDAS will follow in the postnatal clinic for up to three months after birth

*Note: this WANDAS/NCCU clinic runs every 2<sup>nd</sup> week, if an infant needs to be seen every week arrange a tuesday or thursday SR Clinic appointment for the other week.*

- To promote compliance and consistency in assessment, it is preferable that the family is seen by a medical officer known to them at each clinic appointment.
- The family is required to attend the hospital pharmacy weekly to return empty medication bottles and collect a weekly supply of medication.
- Failure to meet the requirements of the home management program (eg. non-attendance at outpatient appointments, loss or inappropriate use of medication) may result in readmission to the neonatal unit at Princess Margaret Hospital for ongoing management of NAS.
- If the parent/s and infant do not attend the outpatient appointment, they are to be phoned at home to negotiate another appointment; contact the appropriate social worker.

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

- The allocated hospital Social Worker is to be kept informed of, and involved in plans for discharge.
- The family's General Practitioner is to be provided with a copy of the infant's discharge medication schedule along with the NCCU discharge summary.
- The family's local Child Health Nurse is to be provided with a copy of the infant's discharge medication schedule and informed of the infant's discharge from the neonatal nurseries.