

**Children's Administration Policy 2552: Intakes on Newborns Identified by a Medical Practitioner as Substance Exposed and/or Substance Affected Newborns by Substances (Not Medically Prescribed) or Has Withdrawal Symptoms Resulting from Prenatal Substance Exposure**

1. Definitions

1. A child is considered to be a "newborn" or "neonate" up to age 1 month (4 weeks old).
2. A Substance-Exposed Newborn is one who tests positive for substance(s) at birth, or the mother tests positive for substance(s) at the time of delivery or the newborn is identified by a medical practitioner as having been prenatally exposed to substance(s).
3. A Substance-Affected Newborn is one who has withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal substance exposure and/or demonstrates physical or behavioral signs that can be attributed to prenatal exposure to substances.

2. Decision Screening

Intake staff must take the following actions on all intakes that identify a newborn as exposed to substance(s).

1. Substance-Exposed Newborn:
  1. When there is an allegation of CA/N, the intake screens in for CPS Investigation or Family Assessment Response.
  2. When there is no allegation but risk factor(s) that indicate present or impending danger the intake screens in for CPS Risk Only Investigation.
2. Substance-Exposed and Substance-Affected Newborn:
  1. When the newborn is Substance-Affected and there is an allegation of CA/N, the intake screens in for CPS Investigation or Family Assessment Response.
  2. Where the newborn is Substance-Affected and there is no allegation of child abuse or neglect, the intake is screened in for CPS Risk Only Investigation.
3. An Intake Supervisor must consult with local Area Administrator or regional CPS Program Manager when they are recommending the intake be screened out. All screening decision made as a result of a consultation must be documented in FamLink.

3. Intake Documentation

1. Check the SE box (Substance EXPOSURE evident at birth) on the newborn in FamLink Intake Participants when the newborn is exposed prenatally to substance(s). Refer to definition of substance exposed newborn in 2552(A).

2. Document whether the medical practitioner identified the newborn as AFFECTED by substance(s) AND available information on risk and protective factors outlined in 2552 (B).
4. CPS Response
- CPS must take the following actions on all intakes that identify a newborn as AFFECTED by substance(s).
1. Follow CPS Investigation procedures and complete a "Plan of Safe Care" as required by CAPTA. CPS will complete the GAIN SS if the parent is not involved in mental health or chemical dependency services.
  2. Document the "Plan of Safe Care" in a case note. The plan will include, but is not limited:
    1. Medical care for the newborn.
    2. Safe housing
    3. A plan of child care if the parent(s) is employed or in school.
    4. A list of phone numbers and contacts for the parent(s) to call, including
      1. Emergency care for the newborn.
      2. Help with parenting issues.
      3. Help during a crisis.
    5. A referral for the parent to necessary services (e.g., local Chemical Dependency Professional, Substance Abuse Assessment/treatment, or Mental Health Assessment/treatment).
    6. A referral to other resources that may be of support (e.g. First Steps, Safe Babies Safe Moms (CPS clients are a priority population), Parent Child Assistance Program, Public Health Department, Women, Infant and Children (WIC), etc.).

<https://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/2500-service-delivery/2552-intakes-newborns-identified-medical-practitioner-substance-exposed-and-or-substance-affected-newborns-substances-not-medically-prescribed-or-has-withdrawal-symptoms-resulting-prenatal-substance-exposure>