



# **NAS Babies: How Can Care be Reliable?**

**Amy Henley, RNC, MSN,  
Denise Cate, RN, BSN,  
Deb Biller, NNP-BC  
Mercy Health Saint Mary's**

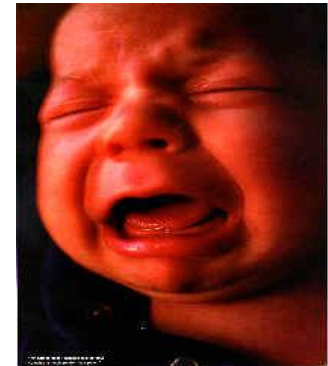


# Mercy Health Saint Mary's Who We Are

- 15 bed NICU
- No Pediatric department
- 2 Neonatologists
- 6 NNPs
- All RN staff with closed service line:
  - RNs float only within NICU, Post Partum and L&D
- Small number of NAS infants
- NAS infant Average LOS: 15 days

# AIM

- Our goal is to provide consistent, reliable, quality NAS scoring for all newborns requiring scoring.
  - What is nursing education impact
  - Does census and acuity impact this
  - If so, how?





# Celebrate Success

- Consistent reliable medication wean.
- High patient satisfaction scores:
  - NAS mothers report they are highly satisfied with:
    - The courtesy and respect with which they are treated by all staff
    - Inclusion with daily plan of care rounds
    - Infants being discharged on no NAS medications
- Affiliation with Kent County Program: Welcome Home Baby
  - Patients identified in hospital and agree to participation.
  - Provide home visit after discharge
    - serves as a clearing house for a multitude of available services



# Identify Challenges

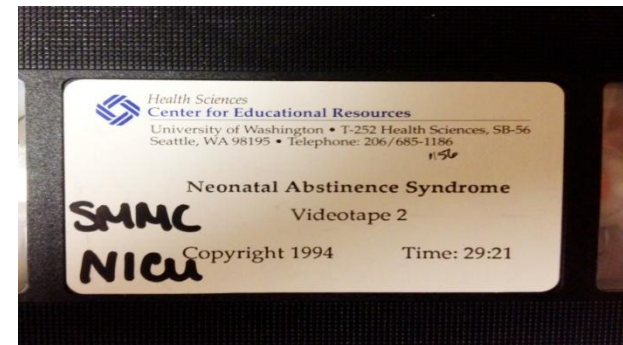
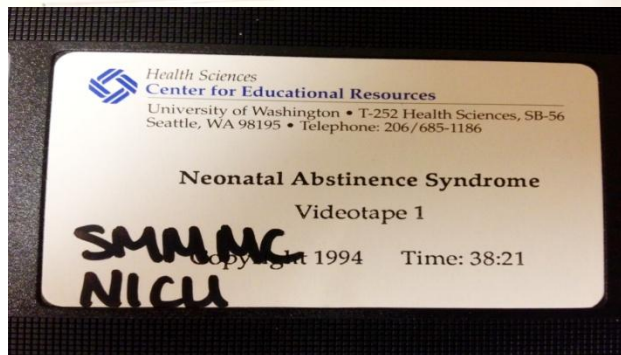
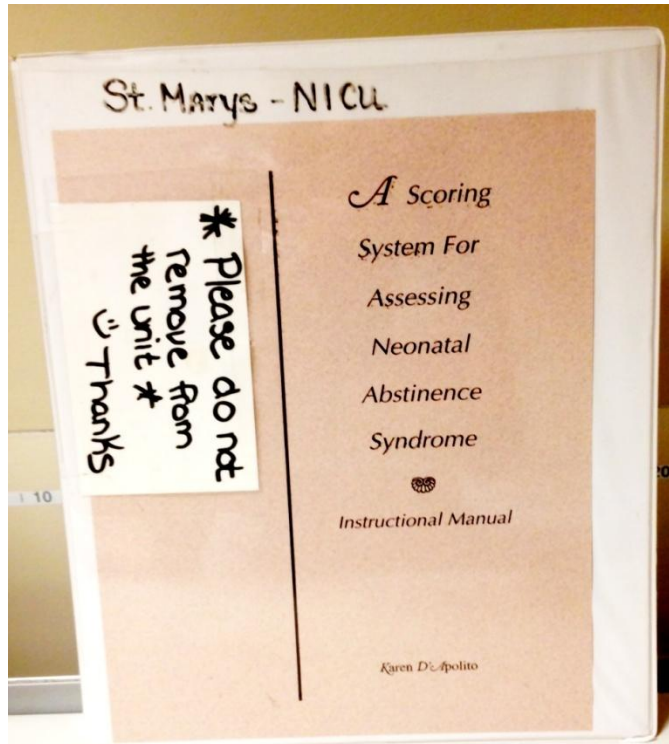
- Consistency of drug screening.
- Availability of support services (PT, OT, Speech, Child life, music etc.)
- Increase in census increases float staff use
  - NAS babies frequently among float assignment
- NAS scoring education:
  - When
  - How
  - Who
  - Quality, currency, frequency of education
  - Low NICU RN turnover a positive
  - High Postpartum and L&D turnover

# Background

- Last 3 NAS admissions:
  - Late Preterm infants
  - #1 ADC 8, LOS 16 days: 0 shifts of float RN
  - #2 ADC 9, LOS 14 days: 2 shifts of float RN
  - #3 ADC 13, LOS 23 days: 40 shifts of float RN
- Last documented NAS scoring education for any maternal child staff: 2005!
  - Method: Video tape & test
  - Competency check with expert RN



# Education History





# Plan

- Continued participation with VON
- Evaluate education resources
- Develop plan for staff education



Staff competency with NAS scoring