

NAS Quality Improvement Project 2013

Saint Joseph Mercy Oakland



Prompt identification of infants at risk **for NAS**

- **Review current policy for identification**
- **Incorporate a 10 Question assessment to be done on admission for a complete and timely drug history (2008 Iowa Perinatal Letter)**
- **Develop a job aide for these questions**
- **Educate nurses regarding ways to ask without bias and in an impartial manner**

Improve the variation in scoring of **NAS infants**

- **Use of consistent assessment tool for assessment for NAS infant – FNAST**
- **Karen D’Apolito, An Inter-Observer Reliability Program has been purchased**
- **A self learning module / computer learning program will be developed for this program**
- **Two staff nurse champions from each unit have been identified to assist the nurse educator in educating all nurses on all maternal child units. Expected date of completion is the fall of 2013**
- **Will institute annual inter-observer Reliability check offs on all units as part of annual competency**

Improve the variation in response to scoring – non pharmacologic treatment

- **Provide education to parents about infant behaviors and interventions**
- **NAS guide has been developed to give to parents and family members of NAS infants**
- **Include parents in the scoring process, and educate them to score infant**
- **Institute trained volunteer cuddler to assist in comforting infant when parents are not present**
- **Identify a quiet, calm controlled environment for these infants**
- **Implementing physical/occupational therapists to work with parents on techniques to calm and interact with an infant having significant withdrawal symptoms**
- **PT/OT initiation of feeding techniques in infants who fail to adapt**

Standardize guidelines for pharmacological treatment of infants admitted to the NICU

- **Consistent initiation of first line medication**
- **Weight-based dosing at optimal doses**
- **Adhere to a consistent weaning protocol**

Improve discharge/follow up of NAS Infants

- Discharge infant home 24-48 hours after proper wean off Morphine medication
- Educate PEDs regarding weaning of medication if infant sent home on Phenobarbital
- Discuss with PEDs to evaluate infant 1-3 days after discharge – those infants not treated
- Identify community support service that can facilitate home transition

Measures

We will be looking at these measures to evaluate our improvement process

- **Number of infants with potential risk of NAS identified**
- **Number of NAS infants actually admitted to the NICU for treatment – Comparing Length of Stay**
- **Duration of pharmacological treatment**
- **Numbers of infants readmitted to hospital for withdrawal symptoms**