Standard Risk Assessment to Identify Substance Exposed Newborn Baby’s Algorithm

Conduct the Standard SEN Risk Assessment

At Risk

- Initiate procedure to collect urine
- Notify baby’s PCP of at risk status
- Refer to Medical Social Worker to initiate family assessment and develop Safe Care Plan
- Notify mother of SEN concern, hospital policy, and baby’s pending urine drug screen

Adequate first 10 cc’s of urine

Send newborn urine for newborn drug panel.** Add other tests as indicated.***

Drug Panel(s) positive

- Social Work to complete Safe Care Plan prior to nursery discharge (include plan for follow up by baby’s PCP)
- Make referral to DHS (request their SEN team)
- Notify baby’s PCP of baby’s discharge & Safe Care Plan
- Refer mother to treatment: illicit/recreational drug, misuse of prescription medication, heavy alcohol use.

Drug Panel negative

- Social Work to complete Safe Care Plan prior to nursery discharge (determine need to refer to DHS and their SEN team)
- Notify baby’s PCP of baby’s discharge & Safe Care Plan

Missed or inadequate urine: Contaminated urine determined by lab

Further Action as per Safe Care Plan

Low Risk

No additional actions

Acronym Chart:
SEN=Substance Exposed Newborn
PCP=Primary Care Physician
OB-GYN=Obstetrics & Gynecology
DHS=Dept of Human Services
GCMS=Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry
MSW=Medical Social Worker

* Maternal drug panel DAS9UE= Amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepines, cannabinoids, cocaine, ethyl alcohol, methadone, opiates, propoxyphene (OML code 38655).
** Newborn drug panel =amphetamines, cannabinoids, cocaine, opiates and methadone (OML code 37220) plus GCMS for methamphetamine (OML code 36131)
*** If prenatal use of a drug not on the drug panel is suspected, add that drug test.