

Understanding Plans of Safe Care

for Healthcare Providers



SuPPoRT
Colorado



Plans of Safe Care (POSC) are vital to supporting and ensuring the well-being of infants and families impacted by prenatal substance use. As a healthcare provider, understanding and actively participating in POSC is crucial for delivering comprehensive care to our vulnerable populations.

Societal stigma about addiction and fears about child welfare involvement mean many pregnant individuals are reluctant to seek treatment and support. Engaging trusted organizations and providers to initiate a POSC can help ensure families receive the support they need and deserve.

PRENATAL SUBSTANCE USE IS A GROWING ISSUE IN COLORADO.

98%

There was a 98% increase in newborns exposed to opioids prenatally between 2012 to 2018.

2nd

Unintentional drug overdose was the second leading cause of maternal death (2020).

1/3

Substance use contributed to nearly one-third of pregnancy-associated/related deaths (2020).

DID YOU KNOW?

2016

In 2016, as a response to the growing opioid epidemic, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act modified child welfare legislation, requiring that any infant with in utero substance exposure have a POSC in place following their release from the care of a healthcare provider.

2020

In 2020, as a result of the passage of Colorado Senate Bill 20-028, the definition of child abuse and neglect was changed for Substance Exposed Newborns (defined in CRS 19-1-103(1)(a)(IV) and 7.000.2 (A)). Toxicology results alone are not a reliable determination of how the newborn is affected, threatened, or impacted under this new law.

Family at the Center

A POSC is a voluntary process that is led by the family. A Plan of Safe Care is more than a document – it is coordinated care to support families and improve outcomes.

Why It's Important for You

By familiarizing yourself with POSC, you play a key role in addressing the complex needs of infants and families affected by prenatal substance exposure. Your involvement can significantly impact the health outcomes and long-term well-being of families.

Your Role in POSC



Early identification and assessment of infants at risk of prenatal substance exposure. This process should ideally be initiated prenatally.



Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams to develop and implement individualized POSC for each infant and family.



Offer support, education, and resources to families to promote positive parenting practices and reduce substance use.

By actively engaging in POSC, you are contributing to the holistic care of infants and families affected by prenatal substance exposure, ultimately improving health outcomes and fostering resilience within communities across Colorado.

Scan for more information on Plans of Safe Care.



SuPPoRT Colorado
<https://illuminatecolorado.org/supportcolorado/>



Colorado Dept. of Human Services
<https://cdhs.colorado.gov/plans-of-safe-care>