MOMCARE

Maternal Opioid Use Disorder Management and CARe REsources in Custody

momcarejail.org

Pregnant + Using Opioids: 10 Things for Correctional Staff to Know

1. Opioid withdrawal is harmful for the fetus *and* mother!
2. Methadone and buprenorphine (e.g. Suboxone, Subutex) are safe in pregnancy.
3. Pregnant and postpartum women should not be taken off MAT.
4. Breastfeeding while on MAT is safe and recommended.
5. Many women who use substances may not get prenatal care because they are afraid of being judged and having their babies taken from them.
6. Addiction is a disease, not a character fault.
7. Babies may be born with short-term, treatable withdrawal symptoms, however, they are not considered addicted. This is referred to as Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) or Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS).
8. Pregnancy and incarceration increase the risk of overdose death. The risk of overdose is the highest in the postpartum period.
9. Recovery is a process. MAT helps mothers stay in recovery, saves lives, and helps them be the best moms they can be.
10. Go to momcarejail.org to learn more!

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