

REFERENCE GUIDE TO PREGNANCY AND METHADONE USE

“I am on Prescribed Methadone, will I be receiving a dose during my delivery?”

If you are receiving Methadone through a licensed clinic, you will be provided medication.

If you are taking Methadone from the streets, you will not be given Methadone.

Labor pain medication will be discussed with you before delivery by your Obstetrician or Midwife and, if necessary, during your delivery.

“Will I get in trouble for taking prescription medication to the hospital?”

Please inform your obstetrician or midwife if you take any medications, including Methadone. No outside medications are allowed in the hospital.

Per most clinic policies, take home doses of Methadone need to be returned to the dispensing clinic if not used on the day they are designated to be used. Each dose is dated and must be taken that day.”

“What can I expect at the hospital?”

The hospital will provide a tour if you request one, prior to your delivery.

This will better prepare you for what you and your baby will experience.



What You Need to Know Before You Delivery



“Will the Florida Department of Children and Families investigate me? ”

Each situation is different. Please ask to speak to the social worker about your specific case.

“Will I be given instructions on how to care for my baby?”

The hospital will provide you with instructions to care for your baby, prior to your release.

Your baby may be diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), which may require observation and treatment. Hospital staff will provide you with information to care for babies with these symptoms.

Breastfeeding

Breastfeeding while on a medication assisted treatment program is safe.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends only breastfeeding, followed by breastfeeding in combination with the foods until at least 12 months of age. Breastfeeding may continue for as long as mother and baby desire.

Breastfeeding is not recommended if you are taking illegal drugs and can be harmful to your baby.

Contact your delivery hospital and ask to speak to their breastfeeding consultant, childbirth educator or labor & delivery social worker. The Lee County WIC program provides breastfeeding support. Please call: 239.344.2000.