



2 Peachtree Street NW, 15th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142
dph.ga.gov

July 15, 2016

Dear Provider,

You may recall that effective Jan. 1, 2016, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) was added to the [list of conditions](#) that are notifiable by law to the Georgia Department of Public Health. We appreciate not only your adherence to this new reporting requirement but also your questions and feedback regarding this addition.

NAS is a condition that results from the abrupt discontinuation of chronic fetal exposure to substances that were used or abused by the mother during pregnancy. Having NAS on the list of notifiable conditions provides the opportunity to:

1. Assess the incidence of NAS in Georgia and trends over time
2. Identify opportunities for timely intervention and education
3. Better characterize risk factors for NAS in Georgia
4. Assess capacity to address maternal addiction and provide multidisciplinary care for the child/family affected by substance abuse

Based on your feedback, we have clarified the reporting process and updated our reporting database to improve data quality. The criteria for reporting NAS has been simplified to include at least one of the following: **a newborn with withdrawal symptoms and/or a newborn with a positive drug screen**. Reports should be submitted within seven days of identification. Cases can be reported electronically through our secure web-based State Electronic Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (SENDSS) at sendss.state.ga.us/. As with all notifiable disease data reported to our Department, data regarding NAS will remain confidential in accordance with Georgia law, Code Sections 31-12-2 and 31-5-5. Frequently asked questions (FAQ) related to NAS can be found at: dph.georgia.gov/NAS.

Thank you for working with us to protect the lives of Georgia's mothers and children. Should you have any questions please contact the Maternal and Child Health Section of the Georgia Department of Public Health at 404-657-2850 or contact Patricia McAfee at patricia.mcafee@dph.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Brenda Fitzgerald MD'.

Brenda Fitzgerald, M.D.
Commissioner and State Health Officer

