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## Professional Contacts on Newborn Crisis Assessments

This Practice Alert is to provide clarification on what a professional contact should look like for drug exposed Newborn Crisis Assessments (NCA). Not all NCAs are contain concerns of drug exposure.

Using the hospital social worker or nursing staff may be appropriate for non-drug exposure cases. However, for drug exposure NCAs, staff must follow up or have confirmation of services with professionals that have knowledge of the substance use.

The professional contact should be someone that is familiar with the mother's substance use and history. A professional contact is not limited to only the OBGYN as there could be other professionals involved with the mother for her substance use or treatment. Staff must thoroughly assess substance use and must not simply take the mother's word regarding services or treatment she is or has received. Below are some examples of professional contacts that can be used for drug exposed NCAs.

- Contact with staff from outpatient treatment program
- Contact with counselor
- Contact with OBGYN
- Contact with Methadone clinic staff, if mother was receiving treatment during pregnancy
- If CD made a referral for services a follow up with the provider to ensure the family is participating
- Contact with the newborn's pediatrician