Perinatal News & Events

Cincinnati Children's Perinatal Outreach Program



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Regional Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Initiative of Greater Cincinnati Hospitals

In collaboration with the Greater Cincinnati Health Council, the regional Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Initiative is an initiative of Greater Cincinnati hospitals aimed at improving the care of newborn babies born dependent on drugs through the implementation of universal maternal drug testing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ohio is in the top 10 states in the nation for the number of unintentional drug overdoses resulting in death – in fact, death by drug overdose surpassed death by motor vehicle traffic in 2007. Northern Kentucky's Boone, Kenton and Campbell counties rate of heroin overdose deaths is more than twice that of Hamilton County. Across the Tristate area, the number of babies being born dependent on drugs has more than tripled to 36 per 1,000 births in 2012 compared to 11 per 1,000 births in 2009.

For newborn babies, drug dependency poses a serious risk. Women exposed to narcotics during pregnancy place their unborn infant at risk for NAS.

Universal Testing

One key strategy to identify and help newborn babies born with NAS is to do universal maternal drug testing on all mothers delivering babies to help identify all potential infants exposed to drugs prior to delivery. Testing is not meant to be punitive, but rather to enable identifying infants needing care and mothers who may need substance abuse treatment referrals. Prompt diagnosis of these infants enables health care providers to provide timely, effective and efficient treatment. Withdrawing infants can be treated before hospital discharge and a plan can be put into place ensuring their recovery.

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Cincinnati Children's Enhances Helicopter Transport to Outlying Areas

Cincinnati Children's Transport team members began lifting off aboard the University of Cincinnati's Air Care helicopters as of March 1, bringing specially trained pediatric and neonatal care more quickly to critical patients.

This marks the first time Cincinnati Children's team of experts is providing direct patient care aboard helicopters. The aircraft contains pediatric and neonatal-sized equipment like blood pressure cuffs, airway kits and self-contained incubators (or isolettes). The helicopter allows the transport team to get to the bedside of critically ill patients up to 150 miles away very quickly.

"Referring hospitals have been waiting patiently for this service. By offering neonatal and pediatric expertise by helicopter, we're able to serve those outlying areas that previously had long waits for our teams to come by ambulance," said Hamilton Schwartz, MD, medical director, Transport.

Imagine that a premature, low-birth weight baby is born in Maysville, Ky., located 60 miles from Cincinnati. A team with neonatal experience can now bring their expertise to this baby in a third of the time compared to traveling by ambulance. By limiting the "out of hospital time," we also limit the amount of time infants and pediatric patients are exposed to the elements, said Schwartz.

To provide this hospital-to-hospital transport, Cincinnati Children's has entered into an arrangement with the University of Cincinnati Medical Center (UCMC), with helicopter services provided by Metro Aviation. When a request for a transfer is received, Cincinnati Children's nurse transport coordinator works with both the referring and receiving physicians to determine the best mode of transport for the patient. If it is determined that a helicopter transport is in the best interest of the patient, the coordinator will contact UCMC to request a helicopter. The helicopter will pick up Cincinnati Children's Transport team, consisting of a critical care nurse and a registered respiratory therapist, before flying to the referring hospital. A pediatric subspecialist may accompany the team if warranted by the patient's condition.

Cincinnati Children's Transport team of over 70 members currently services more than 3,300 patients annually.



One Call Does It All:

To schedule a transport, call

513-636-7525

or

877-288-6416



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Ultimately, the goal is to identify the "best practice of care" for infants with NAS in order to standardize the care for this group of infants.

Two hospitals in the Greater Cincinnati area have successfully initiated universal maternal drug testing when a pregnant mother is admitted to the hospital. The largest volume delivery hospitals anticipate initiation of the process by the fall of 2013.

Adapted from:

www.gchc.org/health-care-issues/neonatal-abstinence-syndrome/

Quick facts on NAS

- Symptoms include excessive crying, seizures, abnormal muscle tone and feeding difficulties due to narcotic withdrawal following delivery.
- Symptoms typically appear within one to seven days after delivery.
- Severe symptoms require inpatient management for several weeks with a 21-day average length of hospital inpatient stay, five times longer than the average length of stay for babies without NAS.
- After perinatal narcotic exposure, over 41 percent of newborns require extended hospitalization and treatment.
- Left undiagnosed, asymptomatic infants subsequently sent home after delivery can suffer lethal consequences due to the extreme challenges associated with their proper care.
- The cost of treating babies with NAS is substantially higher, up to five and a half times more than the cost for treating babies without NAS.

Prescription Monitoring Programs

What is a Prescription Monitoring Program?

Prescription Monitoring Programs (PMPs) are highly effective tools utilized by government officials for reducing prescription drug abuse and diversion. PMPs collect, monitor, and analyze electronically transmitted prescribing and dispensing data submitted by pharmacies and dispensing practitioners. The data are used to support states' efforts in education, research, enforcement and abuse prevention. PMPs are managed under the auspices of a state, district, commonwealth, or territory of the United States.

States recognize the medical need for controlled substances and, therefore, PMPs do not interfere with appropriate, medical use. Prescription data is provided only to entities authorized by state law to access the program, such as health care practitioners, pharmacists, regulatory boards and law enforcement agencies.

PMPs are proactive in safeguarding public health and safety while supporting the legitimate use of controlled substances. PMPs do not infringe on the legitimate prescribing of a controlled substance by a practitioner acting in good faith and in the course of a professional practice.

Excerpted from the Alliance of States with Prescription Monitoring Program website: www.pmpalliance.org

Ohio – OARRS (Ohio Automated RX Reporting System): www.ohiopmp.gov

Indiana – INSPECT (Indiana Scheduled Prescription Electronic Collection & Tracking): www.in.gov/inspect
 Kentucky – KASPER (Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting): www.chfs.ky.gov/kasper

PERINATAL INSTITUTE

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Our mission is to improve
The health of newborn infants
through innovation in clinical care,
education and research.

www.cincinnatichildrens.org

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/perinatal

Perinatal Resource Directory

Announcements

CAPP/PCEO/AWHONN Spring Conference

Preconference Presentation: What Stories can the Placenta or a Fetal or Neonatal Death Tell? Thursday evening, April 11, 2013

Legal Briefs for the Perinatal and Neonatal Nurse

8:00 am-5:00 pm, Friday, April 12, 2013 Marriott Cincinnati North Conference Center For registration information: www.pceoregion2.org/ or www.cincinnati.capp.org

Perinatal Community Action Team (PCAT)

2:00-4:00 pm, Thursday, April 25, 2013 Cincinnati Children's, MERC Classrooms 1103 & 1104 For more information, contact: kathy.hill@cchmc.org

March for Babies

8:00 am - Registration 9:00 am - Start

Clermont County

Saturday, April 27, 2013 Miami Meadows Park, Milford, Ohio

Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky

Sunday, April 28, 2013 Paul Brown Stadium

To register and for more information visit: www.marchofdimes.com

Combined Cincinnati-Dayton Perinatal Nurse Manager Meeting

9:00 am-3:00 pm, Thursday, May 9, 2013 Atrium Medical Center Mark your calendars. Details in process.

Save the Date!

12th Annual Regional Perinatal Leaders' Summit

Friday, October 25, 2013 Sabin Auditorium, Cincinnati Children's Hospital

