



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)

What is Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)?

Neonatal abstinence syndrome is a spectrum of clinical signs (including dysfunction in attention, motor and tone control, sensory integration and autonomic functions) due to drug withdrawal. It is seen in newborns born to mothers with an opioid use disorder or taking other substances.

A pattern of the following symptoms within the first 30 days after birth:

- Hyperirritability
- Restlessness
- Hyperactive reflexes
- Myoclonic jerks
- Jitteriness
- Seizure or Tremors
- Poor feeding
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Sweating
- Mottling
- Nasal flaring
- Apnea
- Inconsolability
- Tachypnea

For more information concerning NAS exposure criteria and case classification, visit [NAS Case Definition](#).

Why is NAS now reportable?

On June 5, 2017, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey declared a [Public Health State of Emergency](#) due to the opioid epidemic. More than two Arizonans die every day due to opioid-related overdoses, and infants are being born in withdrawal from opioids. The resultant [Enhanced Surveillance Advisory](#) went into effect June 15, 2017 as a first step toward understanding the current burden in Arizona and to collect data to best target interventions to prevent neonatal exposure from occurring.

Who needs to report NAS?

See [Reporting](#) for information on required reporters, health conditions to be reported, and reporting systems.

Are midwives required to report?

Yes. Under [Executive Order 2017-04](#), in accordance [with A.R.S. § 36-782\(B\)](#), any suspected NAS is reportable. For more information contact the Bureau of Special Licensing at 602-364-2079.

How do I report a case of NAS?

Cases of NAS can be reported through direct entry into the MEDSIS reporting system (see [Reporting](#)).

When are we required to report? As in, how long is the acceptable timeline between an incident and when we must submit the report?

Our request of you, and our goal as a Department, is for all reporters to submit a report within 24 hours pursuant to [A.R.S. § 36-783\(D\)](#). We understand that this may not always be possible, but request your assistance in obtaining timely and potentially life-saving data.

Does the 24 hour reporting mandate include weekends?

For the purposes of reporting under Executive Order 2017-04 (Enhanced Surveillance Advisory), if a reportable circumstance occurs on a non-business day, it does not need to be “identified” until the next business day. For example, a reportable circumstance that occurs on a Saturday, would be deemed identified at 8:00 am on the following Monday (if no holiday), thus beginning the twenty-four hour reporting period.

Is there an ICD-10 code attached to the NAS reporting?

Cases for the NAS public health reporting are not tied to a specific International Classification of Diseases (ICD) ICD-10 code.

Do I need to report an infant who is being treated without medication?

Not all infants with NAS need to be treated with medication. All diagnoses of Neonatal Syndrome, with or without requiring medications, are reportable.

If I report these NAS cases, will they be passed along to the Department of Child Safety (DCS)?

No. This reporting procedure is for public health surveillance purposes only. Reporting a case of NAS to the Arizona Department of Health Services does not substitute a referral to DCS. Referrals to DCS should still be completed as appropriate to the clinical situation and are required by mandatory reporting provisions of State law ([A.R.S. 13-3620](#)).

Who should I contact if I need assistance reporting NAS cases?

Questions about reporting or feedback/suggestions about the reporting process can be sent to azopioid@azdhs.gov.