

Maternal Substance Exposure (MatEx) Database FAQ

July 2020

Q: Maternal Drug Information – What will be the best way to collect this? Some but not all drugs are usually mentioned in Newborn H&P. To get a complete record, will it be HIPAA safe to get into maternal chart? Will somebody from CMQCC collect this information? If yes, will it be better if we can coordinate with that person?

A: Obtaining the maternal drug information should be similar to the information that is required to accurately assess/treat the newborn demonstrating symptoms of NAS and documented in the newborn's chart. Obtaining information from the maternal charts/records and interviewing the mother- pertinent to the management of the baby- should be routinely documented in the baby's records. The database collection is de-identified so transferring that maternal/neonatal history and information will be HIPAA protected. Your center may not have to rely on CMQCC data collection to complete that section of the database.

Q: I am still having trouble obtaining the mother's information. Are there any other tips?

A: A few sources for maternal data that can be built to follow to the infant's charts in EPIC are: OB notes, NICU and L&D social worker notes (from assessments), EPIC report for urine toxicity screen results, and substance use counselor notes (occasionally the mother will disclose to neonatal providers as well). Delivery documentation (delivery summary in EPIC) can be built so that the OB can document substance use history if known at the time of delivery.

Q: If the maternal screen is positive by history or by urine drug screen, but the baby does not develop any withdrawal symptoms and never requires any treatment, will this baby still qualify for the data collection?

A: The MatEx database will be collected on symptomatic NAS babies at 34 weeks or greater. So, a baby that is not symptomatic would not be eligible. This will eliminate a potential positive maternal/neonatal drug screen from opioids which were administered in L&D. While we could potentially miss babies that demonstrate late manifestations of NAS post-discharge, this is rare and a good number would be re-admitted if symptoms were severe.

Q: Alcohol use during pregnancy has also been listed in the drug abuse list. Does this include any duration/quantity/type of alcoholic drink?

A: The identification of other drugs/medication exposure will likely be based on the maternal screening/interview. If the alcohol exposure is felt to be significant during the pregnancy, it would be included in the baby's H&P and database. However, the database does not quantify the severity of exposure in any of the substances listed.

Q: Is the criteria for home on maternal milk the same as with our other discharges (within the last 24 hours)?

A: Yes.

Q: Is this only for infants born within our facility or also for transports in?

A: Infants who are transported to your center can also be included in the MatEx Database.

Q: Will this also include patients who have never been admitted to our NICU? Those who stay in Newborn Nursery?

A: Yes.

Q: Is this only for babies exposed to opioids? We see a lot of babies exposed to meth.

A: An infant is eligible if the mother was exposed to opiates, or if the mother's tox screen tested positive for opiates, or if the infant's tox screen tested positive for opiates. If exposure to other substances occurred as well, the infant is still eligible for MatEx.

If only exposure to other substances occurred, and if the mother's tox screen is only positive for non-opiate substances, and if the infant's tox screen is only positive for non-opiate substances, the infant is not eligible for MatEx.

Note though that currently, eligibility information is not checked. Therefore, if you would like to track such infants in your NICU, you can add records for these infants. They will however not be included in any analysis on NAS infants.

Q: If a mom is admitted and delivers a week later, and the mom is treated for withdrawal, would that be medication assisted treatment or did it have to occur in an actual MAT program?

A: Yes, that would be MAT.