



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH AND WELLNESS
8TH FLOOR, ANDREW JOHNSON TOWER
710 JAMES ROBERTSON PARKWAY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

June 24, 2014

To: NAS Hospital Contacts
From: Angela M. Miller, PhD, MSPH
RE: Expanded Reporting of Neonatal Abstinence Cases

Dear Hospital Contacts:

Thank you for your continued efforts with accurate and timely reports of cases of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) to the Tennessee Department of Health's NAS Surveillance Portal. As you know, the problem of NAS and substance use/abuse is not limited to Tennessee. We have had several neighboring states express interest in knowing how many mothers cross state lines and give birth to NAS infants in Tennessee.

Presently, TDH has only required reports of NAS births to Tennessee residents. To assist our neighboring states, TDH is asking you to report all cases of NAS, independent of maternal state of residence, **effective July 1, 2014**. The NAS online portal will be revised to accept reports of births to residents of other states. This portal modification will result in one additional question, resulting in a minimal increase in staff time needed for reporting. In the days leading up to the rollout of the revised portal, you may notice slight changes to the portal or experience brief (5-10 minute) interruptions. The web link to the revised portal will not change.

Based upon birth certificate data and current trends in NAS, it is anticipated that fewer than 60 additional NAS cases would be reported statewide. These cases are expected to occur primarily in those hospitals that serve border counties of Tennessee.

Again, thank you for your diligence in making the NAS reporting portal a success!

Sincerely,

Angela M. Miller, PhD, MSPH
Epidemiologist
Division of Family Health and Wellness
Tennessee Department of Health