



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT of CHILD SAFETY

January 23, 2024

A SEN report is still generated in the following circumstances:

- **Relinquishment:** When the birth mother plans to relinquish her rights to the infant through an adoption.
- **Newborn Fatality:** When the newborn dies shortly after birth; the baby must have taken a breath and be of a viable gestational age.

Intake: Substance Exposed Newborn (SEN)

Substance Exposed Newborn (SEN) concerns are screened in as a report for investigation when the information reported indicates that a child under thirty days of age was prenatally exposed to a drug or substance that was not the result of a medical treatment administered to the mother or the newborn infant by a health professional.

SEN Report Criteria

A SEN report will be generated when any of the following exists:

- Clinical indicators in the prenatal period including maternal and newborn presentation (e.g., newborn complications, withdrawal symptoms, etc.);
- Information regarding a history of substance use or abuse by the mother during pregnancy;
- Admission by the mother or another person reports the use of drugs, non-prescribed controlled substances, or extensive use of alcohol by the mother during pregnancy;
 - ▶ **Note:** Admission of using drugs one time during the pregnancy will be taken as a DCS report.
- Medical history of the mother, which may include positive toxicology screens during the mother's prenatal visits, or the mother received alcohol or substance abuse treatment that **began during pregnancy**;
- Positive toxicology or other laboratory test on the mother or the newborn at the time of birth; or
- An infant up to one year old who is exhibiting symptoms that are consistent with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

Prescriptions Taken During Pregnancy

Multiple factors exist when determining if the use of a controlled substance meets DCS report criteria.

Consider the following when determining the screening decision for a SEN report:

- If verification exists that the infant was prenatally exposed to a prescribed controlled substance solely as part of medical treatment by a health professional **and** it was taken as prescribed, then a SEN report will not be generated
 - ▶ for example, if a mother was prescribed Vicodin for a root canal during pregnancy, etc.
- If verification exists that the mother began taking a prescribed controlled substance as part of a medical treatment before or during her pregnancy (documentation in the prenatal/medical records), this information helps to screen out the concern.

Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is the use of pharmacological medications, combined with counseling and behavioral therapies, to treat substance use disorders. Three common medications used to treat opioid use disorder are methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone. For additional information regarding approved MAT medications, please see [FDA - Information about Medication-Assisted Treatment \(MAT\)](#).

- If verification exists that the mother started receiving medication assisted treatment (MAT) prior to pregnancy, then the concern may not need to be screened in as a DCS report.
 - ▶ Verification consists of the healthcare professional confirming that the mother was prescribed MAT medication, the location of the clinic, **and that the mother used it as prescribed.**
- If the mother began medication assisted treatment (MAT) after becoming pregnant, this essentially constitutes an admission of substance abuse during pregnancy and a SEN report is generated.

Marijuana

- If the source reports that the mother used recreational marijuana during pregnancy, a SEN report will be generated.
- If the source reports that the mother used medical marijuana **and** has a valid medical marijuana card, the concern can be screened out.
 - ▶ A valid medical marijuana card is the same as a valid prescription.
 - The source must observe a copy (physical or digital) of the mother's medical marijuana registry identification card.
 - ▶ If the medical provider verifies the mother's use of medical marijuana caused harm (i.e. premature, low birth weight, etc.) a SEN report is generated.

SEN Documentation in Guardian

Follow the usual DCS Report Narrative guidelines located in the Hotline Operating Guide, and include the following additional information in the narrative:

- Name of hospital for delivery
- Baby's discharge date
- Baby's location (nursery or mother's room)
- Mother's room number
- Name of mother's attending physician
- Prenatal care history

- Name and type of drug used during pregnancy, and drug test information indicating if the Intake Person:
 - ▶ was tested
 - ▶ has positive results
 - ▶ has a history of abuse
 - ▶ is showing symptoms of withdrawal
 - ▶ date of last use
- Child's birth weight
- Child's gestational age
- Child's APGAR score
- Name of child's attending physician

For other Guardian documentation, follow the guidelines below:

- Complete the Person Substances tab in the mother's Person record and the child's Person record if applicable.
- Intake Category: Report
- Allegation Description: Substance Exposed Newborn or Infant
 - ▶ Do not select the Substance Abuse tracking characteristic for the SEN allegation

Response time determination:

- Priority 1: The infant will be discharged within 24 hours
- Priority 2: The infant will be discharged after more than 24 hours

For additional information regarding Intake Persons included in a SEN Report, please see the [Intake Persons Field Guide](#).