

## **Model Informed Consent: Screening & Testing for Controlled or Addictive Substances in Pregnancy**

ACOG (the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists) and AAP (the American Academy of Pediatrics) recommend that all pregnant women be screened for controlled or addictive substances (drugs and/or alcohol) as early in prenatal care as possible and during each trimester. This is to assist women in having healthy pregnancies and delivering healthy babies. The earlier those potentially risky and harmful behaviors are identified and treated, the better it will be for you and your baby. The goal is a healthy mother and healthy baby.

**Screening** involves answering a few questions to identify your risk for drug and/or alcohol use. **If you answer these questions, it is assumed you agree to do so (implied consent.)** Answers to the screening questions are confidential as set forth in the West Virginia Code. Honesty in responding to the screening questions is encouraged so that you and your baby can be properly treated.

**Testing** for substance use includes blood and/or urine specimens which are sent to the lab. Testing follows positive answers to the screening questions. The provider will inform you which tests are indicated and ask for your permission to perform these tests. Agreeing to be tested is encouraged so that the best decisions for your health and the health of your baby can be made. You will be informed of the results of the testing and the plan of care. Refusal to agree to testing may result in delayed treatment for substance abuse and may increase the risk of harm to you and your baby. Your refusal to be tested will NOT result in any delay in your prenatal care unless there are other conditions or matters that you have not told your doctor or midwife. **Testing during pregnancy is confidential and does not result in a report to CPS (Child Protective Services) or to any law enforcement unit.** Your test results are part of your medical record and protected from disclosure to the same extent as your other health information. If you do not agree to testing when it is recommended by your doctor or midwife, it may result in your baby being tested after birth if the baby's medical provider has reason to be medically concerned for the baby's health. If your newborn is tested

and the test results are positive for addictive substances (drugs/alcohol), CPS will be notified.

Please be aware that testing for the use of drugs and/or alcohol is also indicated for other medical conditions that may be a result of very different factors. These conditions include (but are not limited to) premature labor and/or delivery, placental abruption (when the placenta, or afterbirth, separates from your uterus before the baby is born), IUGR (intrauterine growth retardation or when the baby is small and not growing adequately), PROM (premature rupture of the membranes or when the water breaks too early), noncompliance with prenatal care (many missed appointments), methadone or Subutex use (legal or illegal), HIV or Hepatitis B or C, third trimester IUFD (intrauterine fetal demise or stillbirth late in pregnancy), and previous positive urine or blood drug tests. You may not be asked to sign a separate consent to be tested for drugs and/or alcohol in these instances, apart from your previously given consent to be treated.

I have read this information sheet and had the opportunity to ask questions about the contents. I understand the information presented here.

I consent to testing for controlled or addictive substances.

Name:

Date:

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I decline to be tested for controlled or addictive substances.

Name:

Date:

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Witness Name:

Date:

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