

Plans of Safe Care

Case Scenario 2

A 32 year old woman **unintentionally becomes pregnant**. Due to the effects of opioids on her body, she typically has widely spaced menses and was **unaware of pregnancy until ~20 weeks gestation**.

At first prenatal visit, she discloses **IV drug use in past year** with symptoms of withdrawal. She denies current use, claiming she went to rehab 3 months ago, and **declines referral to treatment**. OB provider does not discuss the need to develop a Plan of Safe Care with her during this visit.

Through pregnancy, she has **sporadic prenatal care, misses many scheduled visits, and is difficult to contact**. However, she has made all well-child visits for her 6-year old who is attending school regularly. She reports that her mother cares for her child when she uses.

At 32 weeks, she is observed for 48 hours for preterm contractions/bleeding. **She tests positive for heroin. She is initiated on buprenorphine and referred to a community-based buprenorphine program.**

In the remainder of her pregnancy, she tests positive for buprenorphine and marijuana. Her provider **discusses the need to develop a Plan of Safe Care**, and the **possibility of a report to DCYF after her baby delivers** due to her use of substances in pregnancy. **She reacts emotionally, saying “that’s the reason I didn’t want to tell you guys I needed help. You’re going to take my baby away after she’s born...”**

She makes all remaining recommended prenatal visits, and expresses **openness to community referrals and supports** during remainder of pregnancy and after she vaginally delivers her baby girl at 40 weeks.

Discussion Questions:

- How would you approach developing a Plan of Safe Care for this mother and infant in your community?
 - In pregnancy?
 - During the birth hospitalization?
 - Upon discharge to home?
 - During the first few weeks/months at home?
- What are the mother’s Strengths? Goals? Resources Available? Resources Needed?



Use this worksheet to consider how each of the following roles may be involved with Plans of Safe Care.

	Pregnancy	Birth	Discharge	At Home
Maternity Care Provider				
Pediatrician				
Social Worker				
Perinatal Coordinator				
Home Visitor				
Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program Provider				
Medication Assisted Treatment Provider				
Division for Children, Youth and Families				
Recovery Coach				
Patient				
Other				