

APPENDIX 2

TREATMENT INFORMATION SHEET

Healthy moms are certainly more likely to have a healthy baby. It is common for women to decide to take action to treat medical problems for the health of their growing baby. A decision to receive medical treatment for opioid dependence during pregnancy is an important step in your life and that of your baby. Medical treatment can reduce other drugs in your system and increase the chances of a full recovery.

Both methadone and buprenorphine are used for the treatment of opioid dependence. Below are some facts to consider as you and your physician decide which medication is best for you:

- We have the most data about the long-term health of you and your baby when treated with methadone.
- Buprenorphine is a new drug, and while it appears to be safe when we examine newborns, long-term effects on the baby are unknown.
- The ability to receive medication close to home may be a consideration in deciding what medication to use. Neonatal abstinence syndrome can occur following treatment with either methadone or buprenorphine.
- It is important that you are willing and able to be compliant with whichever treatment you and your medical provider select.
- Counseling is an essential part of treatment, regardless of medication.
- Not all people are candidates for office-based treatment with buprenorphine; in those cases, treatment with methadone or buprenorphine through an opioid-treatment program is strongly advised.
- If buprenorphine treatment does not seem to be effective for you, treatment with methadone may be recommended even if following the daily dosing regimen would be difficult.
- Some women that strongly desire buprenorphine may do best to start treatment in a residential treatment setting.