

# Improving Transitions Home for Opioid-Exposed Newborns



**Team Hope**, a Vanderbilt initiative to improve the care of pregnant women and infants affected by the opioid crisis, sought to **improve transitions home** from the hospital after birth.



## Their discharge checklist:

1. Follow-up appointment with primary care physician scheduled prior to discharge
2. Referral to home visiting services
3. Referral to Early Intervention Services
4. If diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome, referral to Pediatric Development Clinic
5. If exposed to hepatitis C virus, referral for follow-up and testing

Opioid-exposed newborns, especially those diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome, are at risk of **poor outcomes** after discharge from the hospital, including:



**Hospital Readmission**



**Emergency Department Utilization**



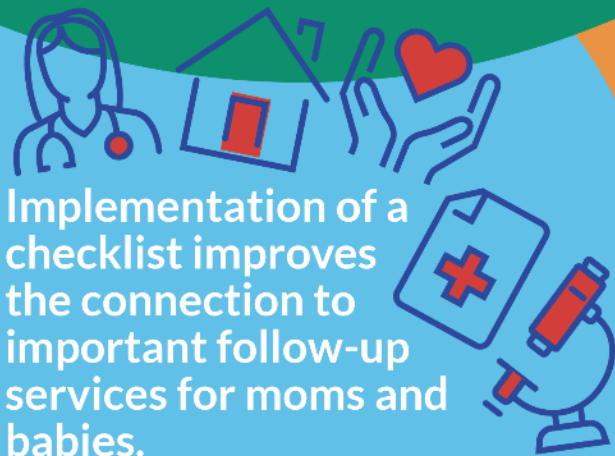
**Adverse Developmental Outcomes**

**Newborns connected to discharge services:**

**2.6%**  
before checklist

**60.3%**  
after checklist

Implementation of a checklist improves the connection to important follow-up services for moms and babies.



Crook, TW, Munn, EK, Scott, TA, Morad, A, Wyatt, J, Johnson, DP, White, M, Patrick, SW. Improving the Discharge Process for Opioid Exposed Neonates. Hospital Pediatrics, 2019, DOI: 10.1542/hpeds.2019-0088 Supported by The Memorial Foundation and the Boedecker Foundation.

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