



Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Kansas Initiative Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Vermont Oxford Network (VON)?

A: VON is an international organization that benchmarks data and helps centers work together on quality improvement initiatives.

Q: What is the role in the Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative (KPQC) in the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Kansas Initiative?

A: The KPQC will support quality improvement through webinars and regional workshops to help implement the recommended “potential better practices” in NAS care. They will be facilitating VON Universal Education throughout the state of Kansas.

Q: What are the “Potential Better Practices” in NAS Care?

A: The eight “potential better practices” are derived from reviewing literature and expert recommends. They are labeled as “potential better practices” as practices must be evaluated, customized and tested within your clinical setting to know if they are truly “better” or “best”.

The following “better practices” are incorporated within the Kansas NAS Initiative bundle:

1. Develop and implement a standardized process for the identification, evaluation, treatment and discharge of infants with NAS
2. Develop and implement a standardized process for measuring and reporting rates of NAS and drug exposure
3. Create a culture of compassion, understanding and healing for the mother/infant dyad affected by NAS
4. Provide care for infants and families in sites that promote parental engagement in care and avoid separation of mothers and infants
5. Engage mothers and family members in providing non-pharmacologic care “first-line” therapy
6. Develop clear eligibility for breastfeeding
7. Develop a standardized process to ensure safe discharge
8. Provide interdisciplinary universal education to all caregivers who may encounter substance exposed infants and families

pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2016/04/13/peds.2015-3835

pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/129/2/e540

Q: What is included in the Vermont Oxford Network NAS Universal Education and Training Program?

- A:** Vermont Oxford Network NAS Universal Education and Training Program:
- 18 Micro-lessons which are relevant to every team member (MD, RN, Social Worker, Case Worker, Hospital Administer, Rapid Responder, Department of Children and Family Services, Parents)
 - VON NAS Quality Improvement Toolkit
 - Virtual Video Visit and Facilitator Guide
 - Sample policies, guidelines and family education tools for NAS care
 - Educational credits: 5 CME/4.5 CEU

<https://public.vtoxford.org/quality-education/nas-universal-training-program>

Q: Is there any cost for Kansas birthing centers participating in the VON NAS Universal Education and Training Program?

- A:** The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has made the VON NAS Universal Education and Training Program available to ALL Kansas birthing centers at no cost through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Q: What are the steps necessary to enroll in the VON NAS Universal Education and Training Program?

- A:** Steps for enrolling in the VON NAS Universal Education and Training Program:
- Identify your team members (VON champion, Data auditor)
 - Either obtain Institutional Review Board (IRB) determination or clearance from risk management
 - Submit center agreement
 - Identify Learners (with the goal of 85% completing)

Q: What is an “IRB determination” and how do we get it?

- A:** IRB stands for Institutional Review Board and is a process where an independent ethics board reviews planned research methods to ensure they are ethical.

Birthing centers will need a determination acknowledging that VON and KPQC data collection and quality improvement project efforts are quality improvement only, and not considered to be research.

Not all birthing centers will have an IRB. Smaller centers may need the help of larger centers or the KPQC. When your center expresses interest in enrolling, the KPQC will provide you with an IRB instruction letter from VON and an IRB determination letter from the University of Kansas Health System and assist you in working with your hospital attorney, quality department or administrators to achieve clearance for this work.



Q: What is the timeframe for VON NAS Universal Education and Training enrollment?

A: VON NAS Universal Education and Training is a two year agreement.

- Completed enrollment materials due on or before September 1
- Launch webinar: TBD
- VON Day Audit: October 8-12
- Year Two follow up VON Audit: October of 2020

Q: Is our center required to participate in quality improvement (QI)?

A: Any center may start at one level of participation and advance. Your center can start with education and training, choose a quality improvement project and build from there.

In the survey, you will be asked to select from the following choices:

- “We will participate in VONs pre and post audit, but do not have the structure to participate in ongoing quality improvement initiatives.” This is the minimum participation in QI.
- “We would like to participate in ongoing quality improvement initiatives. We understand that we can work on quality improvement within our center’s available resources and ability.”
- “It is our goal to use structured quality improvement processes to introduce all of the best practices over the next 2 years.”

Q: What is a Vermont Oxford Center of Excellence in NAS Training and Education?

A: A birthing center will become a Center of Excellence when 85% of their enrolled learners have completed the VON Universal NAS Education. Each center will identify relevant learners within and outside of their center. Enrollment number is not limited, but 85% completion should be attainable.

Q: How do we get involved?

A: Complete the NAS Initiative Survey

https://wichitastate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cCLZpNV4oaU6stv

Q: Where can we get more information and answers?

A: The KPQC is in the process of building a website. In the meantime, inquiries can be sent to kpqc@wichita.edu

