Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Pharmacologic Therapy Protocol

**Screening and Identification**

**A. Exposed Infant Drug Screen(s)**
- Standard Newborn Screen: Every 12 hours for 24 to 72 hours
- If positive, perform Cord Tissue Drug Test
- Cord Tissue Drug Test Fentanyl NAS Scoring
- If score >= 8, admit to NAS treatment

**Treatment**

**Category 1**
- Fentanyl NAS Score 10-11
- No clinical evidence of NAS
- Discharge to parent or guardian

**Category 2**
- Fentanyl NAS Score 12
- Moderate signs of NAS
- Discharge to parent or guardian
- Begin treatment every 3 to 4 days
- NAS Category 2 criteria must be met
- Discharge planning begins at admission

**Category 3**
- NAS Category 3
- Severe signs of NAS
- Discharge to parent or guardian
- Begin treatment immediately
- NAS Category 3 criteria must be met

**Category 4**
- Extreme signs of NAS
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) treatment
- Clinical judgment (Category may change to 4)

**Methadone Wean**
- Methadone 0.025 mg/kg/dose every 4 hrs.
- Doses less than about 0.05 ml will not be accurately measured

**Increasing Treatment**
- Morphine dose 0.025 mg/kg/dose every 4 hrs.
- Consider adding phenobarbital 2.5 mg/kg/dose every 12 hours
- Increase methadone (if used rather than morphine) by 0.05 mg/kg
- Rescue doses of 0.1 mg/kg morphine for severe breakthroughs

**Weaning Treatment**
- Discontinue methadone 0.02 mg/kg/dose q24h x 24 hours
- Wean every 24 to 48 hrs
- Wean every 24 to 72 hrs
- Wean every 72 to 96 hrs
- Discontinue methadone when NAS Scores are controlled or resolved

**Discharge Planning**
- Written Discharge Plan and education understood and agreed upon by all parties including PMP
- PMP appointment at 48 hours
- Neonatal visit addressed
- Skilled Nursing Visits for 30 days
- Social Work and Child Protective Services disposition and interventions established

**DISCHARGE CRITERIA:**
- Methadone wean every 24 to 72 hrs
- All Discharge Criteria must be met
- All Negative NAS Scores (Category may change to 3 or 4)

**Other**
- NAS signs not adequately controlled with single drug regimen
- Methadone wean every 24 to 72 hrs
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- Immediate withdrawal is initiated. The pediatrician’s discretion is designed to reach therapeutic levels rapidly.

**Follow-up**
- PROMS appointment at 48 hours
- Written Discharge Plan and education understood and agreed upon by all parties including PMP
- PMP appointment at 48 hours
- Neonatal visit addressed
- Skilled Nursing Visits for 30 days
- Social Work and Child Protective Services disposition and interventions established

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