



Redefining Women's Care

Congratulations on your pregnancy and thank you for choosing Catholic Health to care for you and your baby.

Our WomenCare program is the only one of its kind in Western New York, giving women a single, comprehensive source for the highest quality care for both mom and baby under one roof.

To learn more or to find a women's health specialist near you, visit chsbuffalo.org/WomenCare or call HealthConnection at **(716) 447-6205**.

We can also help you find a doctor for prenatal care if you do not already have one.



Chemical Dependency Care Locations

Sisters OB/GYN Center *

Sisters of Charity Hospital
2157 Main St. • Buffalo, NY 14214
(716) 862-1984

STAR - St. Vincent

St. Vincent Health Center
500 Broadway • Buffalo, NY 14212
(716) 893-9350

STAR - Amherst

3730 Sheridan Dr. • Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 862-2059

Clearview Treatment Services

Mount St. Mary's Hospital
5300 Military Rd. • Lewiston, NY 14092
(716) 298-2115

Mount St. Mary's Neighborhood Health Center *

3101 Ninth St. • Niagara Falls, NY 14305
(716) 284-8917

Pathways - Buffalo *

158 Holden St. • Buffalo, NY 14214
(716) 862-1330

Pathways - Rochester *

435 E. Henrietta Rd. • Rochester, NY 14620
(585) 424-6580


Springville OB/GYN Center *

27 Franklin St. • Springville, NY 14141
(716) 592-7400

Mercy Comprehensive Care Center *

397 Louisiana St. • Buffalo, NY 14204
(716) 847-6610

* Suboxone certified obstetrician or neonatal nurse practitioner on site.



Chemical Dependency & Baby



Pregnancy and the Use of Prescription and Non-Prescription Drugs

Treatment for chemical dependency during your pregnancy





Frequently Asked Questions

I am taking prescription pain medication. How does it affect my baby?

All prescription pain killers may have an effect on your pregnancy. Your baby may be born physically dependent (not addicted) and show symptoms of withdrawal. We can help.

Should I stop taking these medications?

It is very important that you discuss possible effects of all your prescription and non-prescription medications with your doctor. It may be necessary and appropriate to continue your medications during pregnancy. If they need to be stopped, it should only be done with the support and assistance of your doctor.

My doctor prescribed this medication. Can I become dependent on it?

Yes, it is possible. Most people who take prescription pain killers or other addictive medications do so with no intention of becoming dependent on them. Many pregnant women who are regularly taking prescription pain killers were prescribed these drugs after surgery, a car accident, or other valid reasons. Unfortunately, some people do end up becoming chemically dependent on medication. We can help.

Pregnancy & Prescription Drug Use

Treatment for prescription drug dependency is an important step for you and your baby. National studies show that 55-95% of babies whose mothers have a chemical dependency will experience some type of symptom. Without treatment, some babies may experience serious withdrawal. At Catholic Health, our goal is to help you and your baby with any symptoms that may occur.

Caring for You

If you have any concerns that you may be taking a medication that could cause drug dependency, talk to your provider about it. It's important to NOT stop taking prescription medications while you are pregnant without discussing it with a doctor. Your doctor may recommend medically assisted treatment (MAT) for chemical dependency

Suboxone is an opioid substitute that is one form of MAT. It can be used to manage symptoms of withdrawal. We have several doctors and obstetricians certified to prescribe this medication should it be needed. Counselors and other specially-trained professionals are available to guide you through pregnancy and the birth of your child.

We understand that chemical dependency is a physically and emotionally painful illness. We encourage you to speak with your doctor, or contact a Catholic Health resource to start getting treated right away. We'll ensure that you and your baby receive non-judgmental compassionate care.

Studies show that the more care you receive as early as possible in your pregnancy, the better the outcomes are for both you and your baby.

Caring for Baby

While the extent of problems will differ for each baby, in general, your baby may stay in the hospital after birth for up to five days while staff monitors your baby for symptoms of withdrawal. If your baby needs help with withdrawal, he/she may stay longer than five days. During this time, you will meet with the nurses and doctors to talk about how we can work together to best care for your baby. This includes:

- Watching your baby for signs of withdrawal. We use a scoring tool to determine what your baby's needs are. We will share that tool with you so that you understand what we are monitoring.
- Teaching you signs of withdrawal and ways to help your baby.
- Providing help with feeding. We encourage breastfeeding whenever possible. Your baby may also require special formula.
- Special monitoring of skin and using creams to stop or limit skin breakdown.
- Giving your baby medicine when needed.

To learn more or find a specialist near you, **Contact us**
chsbuffalo.org/WomenCare, or 716-447-6205.

