



Urine Drug Screens in Pregnancy

The ACOG Committee Opinion recommends that screening for Opioid use and Opioid use disorder be part of the comprehensive care and should be done at the first prenatal visit and even at preconceptional counseling visits. Early screening even with brief intervention (engaging the patient in a short conversation) and a referral for treatment does improve maternal and fetal outcomes. Risk based screening can lead to missed cases and add to stereotyping and stigma; therefore universal screening is recommended.

Before pregnancy and in early pregnancy all women should be asked about the use of drugs and alcohol including prescription opioids and other medications used for nonmedical reasons. Confidentiality, patient autonomy, and the integrity of the patient-physician relationship must be protected to the extent allowable by laws regarding disclosure of substance abuse disorder.

Clinical screening questions in conjunction with urine drug screens are recommended ways to provide screening for prenatal patients. The NIDA Quick screen questionnaire is one of the recommended screening questionnaires.

Urine drug testing can be performed to detect or confirm suspected substance use, but testing can only be performed with the patient's knowledge and consent and in compliance with state laws.