

Hospital Reporting Policy Analysis

October 16th, 2024



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Project Aim

This study aims to assess reporting policies and practices for families affected by perinatal substance exposure, and its impact on access to quality care.



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Research Questions

1. Has there been a change in hospital reporting policies since 2018 when NH RSA 132 – 10-e and 10-f was first introduced?
2. How has DCYF's reporting policy for substance exposure in utero impacted hospital policies and practices, provider attitudes, patient attitudes, access to, and quality of perinatal care?
3. How has the interpretation of the reporting policy evolved for your hospital?
4. How does New Hampshire's DCYF perinatal substance exposure reporting policy compare with reporting policies in other states?
5. How do patients perceive the DCYF policy, and has it affected their engagement with perinatal care and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment?
6. How do providers interpret and implement the DCYF policy in their practice?
7. How does DCYF's reporting policy compare to other neighboring states?



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Study Design

*This is an **iterative qualitative study** designed to explore the experiences and attitudes of reporting policies. The study will employ interviews and focus groups for data collection, as well as document analysis to understand hospital policies. Thematic analysis will be conducted to identify key themes from the interviews.*



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Study Population

- **Healthcare providers:** Currently employed as a care provider at a hospital offering perinatal care services, has experience with or understanding of hospital and DCYF reporting policies. Goal to reach 100% of birthing hospitals.
- **Compliance and/or Legal Hospital Staff:** Currently employed in compliance and/or legal department at a hospital offering perinatal care services, has experience with or understanding of hospital and DCYF reporting policies. Goal to reach 100% of birthing hospitals.



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Provider Questions

- What is your hospital's policy for reporting perinatal substance exposure to DCYF?
- Are you aware of DCYF's policy for mandated reporting of perinatal substance exposure?
- How do you understand and implement this policy in your practice?
- How has the policy affected your relationships with patients, and how do you think it affects patient care?
- Have you experienced changes in how your patients access to care and level of trust based on this policy?



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Legal/Compliance Questions

- What is your hospital's policy for reporting perinatal substance exposure to DCYF?
- Are you aware of DCYF's policy for mandated reporting of perinatal substance exposure?
- How do providers implement this policy in your hospital?
- Are you aware of how this policy affects patient care?
- Are you aware of changes in how patients access care and level of trust based on this policy?
- Describe your experience with communications from DCYF regarding the reporting policy.



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Potential Next Phase

- Collecting data about patient perspectives and access
- Compiling policies and sharing findings



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Discussion

- Does the project purpose and research questions align with the goal of assessing reporting policies and practices for families affected by perinatal substance exposure?
- Suggestions for recruitment?
- General suggestions, considerations or implications for this project?



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**Questions or
suggestions?**

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