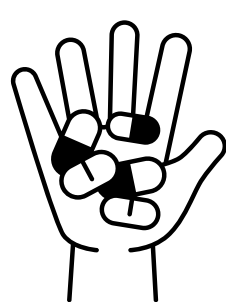
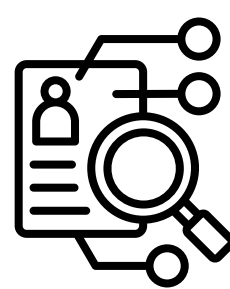


# 2 PRECONCEPTION & ANTEPARTUM CONSIDERATIONS

Knowledge Translation Toolkit can be found [here](#) and includes:

- Chapter Summary
- Snap Shot Consultation Infographic (p.69)
- Continuum of Care Algorithm (p.74)
- Pharmacy Considerations (p.97)



## 1. Introduction

- The preconception/ antepartum period of the perinatal continuum is the optimal time to develop collaborative and empowering relationships, while building a foundation of care for pregnant persons diagnosed with opioid use disorder.
- Social determinants of health greatly affect this population and must be considered in all aspects of care.

## 2. What is OAT?

- Opioid Agonist Therapy involves administration of an opioid agonist medication to prevent withdrawal and reduce cravings.
- Methadone and Buprenorphine/naloxone are the two most commonly prescribed OAT medications in the pregnant population in Nova Scotia.
- **Withdrawal management is not recommended as an option in pregnancy.**

## 3. Screening

- Substance use screening should be completed as part of initial prenatal assessments and repeated periodically across the perinatal continuum.
- T-ACE and ALPHA tool are two tools available to support/guide screening.
- **Recommended Care Consultations and Considerations** (p.74) Outlines key care plan considerations for individuals who are prescribed pre-existing OAT.
- Persons not prescribed pre-existing OAT with substance use should be promptly consulted with an addiction medicine specialist.

## 4. Complex Care Needs: Diverse Consultations

- Dynamic and responsive care is required to manage care for this population.
- Beginning with a detailed health intake is critical in establishing trust and a foundation of personal knowledge to assist in care planning.
  - Substance use history and last intake is critical to document
- Next, screening for infectious diseases is particularly relevant for pregnant persons diagnosed with OUD with a history of IV drug use due to the increased risks of contracting various infectious diseases.
  - e.g. Hep B & C infections and associated considerations for pregnancy and newborn care
- Early Consultations are needed (and are elaborated on the next page)

Chapter Summary