



CompDrug

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CompDrug raising awareness of the stigma associated with motherhood and substance use disorder

(Columbus, OH, May X, 2023) – In an effort to raise awareness of the stigma attached to mothers managing the effects of substance use disorder (SUD), CompDrug is conducting a social media campaign leading up to Mother’s Day.

While the stigma affects all people with SUD, the impacts on pregnant and parenting women are unique.

In a 2022 Women’s Health Report Study, researchers found that negative interactions with healthcare providers and fear of child welfare involvement can be detrimental to recovery and can lead to relapse for women with SUD.

“There are a number of myths and stigma around the use of Medication Assisted Treatment for people who are struggling with opiate use disorder and especially for pregnant women,” said Alex Meyer, CompDrug’s COO. “There is a perceived negative impact on the fetus when in reality, Medication Assisted Treatment will

result in a better outcome for both mom and baby. The stigma prevents women from seeking treatment.”

Stigma comes in many forms, including derogatory language, misinformation, and even tone and body language. This creates a challenge to inform women of their options while pregnant or parenting.

“Our treatment is used in tandem with counseling,” continued Meyer. “Our pregnant and parenting patients see both a designated nurse and counselor who are qualified to treat pregnant and post-partum women with Substance Use Disorder.”

CompDrug offers wraparound treatment to ensure the health of both the patient and infant through its [Pregnancy and Parenting Pathway Program](#). Perinatal services for patients include specialized support, case management, transportation services and infant essentials (e.g., diaper bag, car seat, stroller, and crib).

Help CompDrug counteract this stigma by supporting recovering moms to help them make the best choices for themselves and their children.

What You Can Do to Help

Please visit our [Facebook page](#) and consider donating to our public [Amazon registry](#). All items will be given to current mothers or expecting women who are patients at CompDrug. You can also donate to our Pregnancy and Parenting Pathway program at [CompDrug.org/give](#).

Interview and Photo Opportunity

Mother’s Day Brunch for Pregnant and Post-Partum CompDrug Patients (Invitation Attached)

When? 11AM – 1PM, Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Where? 1420 Fields Avenue, Columbus 43211

An interview may also be scheduled outside of this event.

About CompDrug

CompDrug is one of the largest nonprofit Opioid Treatment Programs in Ohio. A behavioral health provider, CompDrug offers a continuum of addiction services from prevention through outpatient treatment and long-term recovery, impacting addiction across the lifespan.

About Medication Assisted Treatment

Medication assisted treatment (MAT) is the use of medication in conjunction with counseling to provide a patient-centered approach to the treatment of substance use disorder. This evidence-based treatment for opiate dependence includes the FDA-approved medications Methadone, Buprenorphine, and Vivitrol®. At CompDrug, our patients are medically managed with one of these medications in conjunction with active participation in counseling. The advantages of MAT include switching from a short acting opiate to a long-acting opiate, and switching from an illicit, often intravenous drug to an oral medication that is taken under physician supervision. Participation in treatment leads to increased survival, improved physical health, improved family relationships, improved birth outcomes, decreased crime and improved productivity at work and in society.

About Pregnancy & Parenting Pathway

The CompDrug Pregnancy and Parenting Pathway of services follows a patient through the duration of pregnancy and continues until the child's 2nd birthday. The goal of the Pregnancy and Parenting Pathway program is to promote family stability, and to reduce effects of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and [Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome](#) (NOWS). This program is funded through The Maternal Opiate Medical Supports (MOMS) program of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.