

Can big data help mothers and babies in Alabama?

Updated May 16;
Posted May 16



Some of the materials provided to pregnant patients by axialHealthcare(courtesy)

4

58
shares

By **Amy Yurkanin**, ayurkanin@al.com

Doctors in Alabama will become the first in the nation to get new tools to prevent prenatal exposure to prescription drugs through a program launched by Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

AxialHealthcare of Tennessee partnered with the insurer to identify women at risk of opioid abuse before they become pregnant and deliver babies that may require medical treatment for dependence.

The rate of babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome - which occurs when they are exposed to drugs before birth - has skyrocketed in the last decade with increases in opioid use. Between 2004 and 2014, the number of babies diagnosed with the condition increased 433 percent.



Registration on or use of this site constitutes acceptance of our **User Agreement** and **Privacy Policy**

© 2018 Alabama Media Group. All rights reserved (**About Us**).

The material on this site may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, cached or otherwise used, except with the prior written permission of Alabama Media Group.

Community Rules apply to all content you upload or otherwise submit to this site.

[▶ Ad Choices](#)

