

REGNANT Nicole Richie is back in rehab in a desperate struggle to save her baby. "It's a constant battle to stay sober and healthy to save her baby," disclosed source.

ENQUIRER stunned the world when we the story in May that 83-pound Nicole pregnant. And as we reported, a deeply and Nicole immediately went into rehab learning she was pregnant.

was treated for anorexia and underwent days of detox – because of her years-long on to the painkiller Vicodin and muscle at Soma.

was upset to learn she has a high-risk pregnancy – but refused to get an abortion, as ENQUIRER previously revealed.

though she has not relapsed since becoming pregnant, 6-months-pregnant Nicole is in

clean and healthy for the sake of her baby and future family."

The busy entertainer receives therapy even when traveling with her fiance, Good Charlotte rocker Joel Madden, say insiders. The pair recently celebrated Nicole's birthday with a romantic Hawaiian vacation, which served as a honeymoon before their upcoming wedding. During the trip, Nicole wore a skimpy bikini showing off a growing – and healthy – body.

"She's constantly on the phone or text messaging her drug counselor, therapists and a high-risk pregnancy specialist," revealed the close source.

"She calls it 'on-the-road rehab.'"

"And when she's home, it's a round-robin of obstetrician and therapist office visits, at-home sessions with counselors and constant phone calls to the support team."

But some days are still tough. "You can't take

Over a period of four years, Nicole took about 73,000 pills – an average of 50 pills a day – 25 each of Vicodin and Soma, The ENQUIRER previously disclosed.

And despite her public denials, she has also battled anorexia.

Doctors have warned that her weight struggles and past drug use might have already caused serious harm to her unborn baby – especially if she took drugs during her first trimester before learning of her pregnancy.

"The specter of a miscarriage or relapse is always there," revealed the close source. "But Nicole is flourishing right now."

"She hasn't touched Vicodin or Soma, and she has about 100 people watching out for her."

Last December, Nicole was busted on DUI charges and cited for driving the wrong way on a Los Angeles freeway. She admitted to the

Nicole is more determined than ever to stay clean for the sake of her baby

patient rehab program – and is vigilantly the help of top doctors, therapists and counselors to stay sober and healthy, say insiders. "She is making every effort to avoid pregnancy medications," revealed the close source. "She this using drugs and not eating is not an

le, 26, had initially detoxed at Southern mia's Beau Monde treatment center in Del Mar.

she's back in rehab, but on a looser revealed the close source.

ole's recovery and pregnancy are being en by a group of experts and physicians, th a combination of office and at-home and over-the-phone therapy.

far the arrangement is working. She ed 83 pounds in May – and now she weighs Nicole is more determined than ever to stay

up to 50 pills of painkillers and muscle relaxants a day for four years and not be tempted."

The 5-foot-1 singer/actress is also receiving enormous support from Joel, who gave her a "get-help-or-we're-through" ultimatum after learning she was pregnant.

"Joel is the best thing that could have happened to Nicole," said the close source. "His tough love saved her life."

"It hasn't been easy for Nicole to stay sober. She's been taking drugs for more than half her life. She was a hardcore drug addict."

Nicole – the adopted daughter of R&B legend Lionel Richie – has admitted she smoked marijuana at 13, started using cocaine at 14, and by the age of 19 was addicted to heroin.

She has been hooked on prescription drugs since she was 20 and has undergone long-term, inpatient rehab at least twice before her pregnancy.

officer she had taken Vicodin and smoked marijuana.

"But that was a huge wake-up call to her – and helped her take responsibility for her life, the baby's life and recovery," said the close source.

Nicole pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four days in jail – but in August, she ended up serving what may be a world record for the shortest incarceration – 82 minutes.

As a result of that conviction, she recently enrolled in an 18-month anti-drinking driver course.

Meanwhile, Joel's ultimatum, her run-in with the law and, most importantly, the health threat to her baby have transformed the mom-to-be, insists the close source.

"Nicole has been scared straight. She's winning the battle."

by ROBIN MIZRAHI and PATRICIA SHIPP