

CCHD Age at Screening Indicator

Introduction

Timely CCHD screening allows babies affected with the diseases screened to be identified early and access the treatment they need to prevent serious health problems – this is the primary purpose of NBS.

NSO recommends that the ideal time for CCHD Pulse oximetry screening is between 24-48 hours of age, ideally the earlier during that window the better.

Screening outside of the recommended screening timeframe may result in:

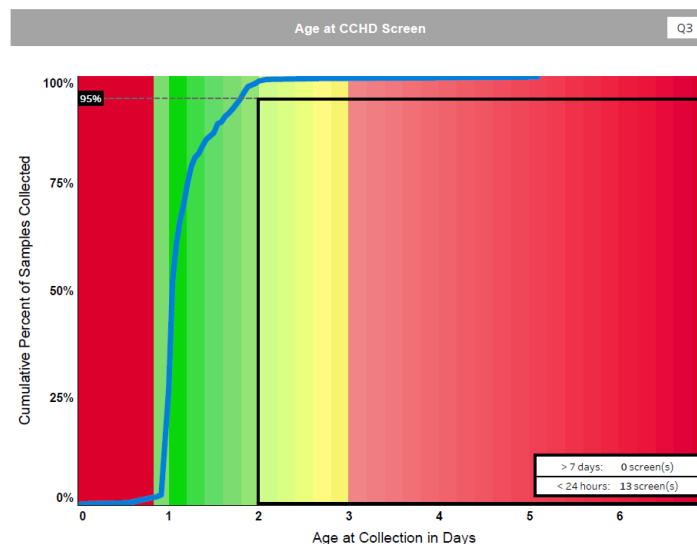
- a delay in the identification of a baby affected with one of the diseases screened
- a risk of a clinical deterioration prior to screening
- a higher incidence of a false positive screen (if done before 24 hours)

Benchmark and Interpretation

NSO launched the Age at Collection indicator to provide health care providers with site specific data about the timing of CCHD Screens performed at their institution or midwifery practice.

Age of Screening is reported as a graph with Age at Time of Screen on the X axis and cumulative percent on the Y axis. An absolute number for both early and delayed screens is also reported.

Example:





COLOUR	DESCRIPTION	MESSAGE
GREEN	The percentage of CCHD screens performed <u>before 24 hours OR after 48 hours of age</u> at your organization is 1% or less	You are doing a great job performing and documenting CCHD screens during the appropriate screening window.
YELLOW	The percentage of CCHD screens performed <u>before 24 hours OR after 48 hours of age</u> at your organization is $\geq 1\%$ and $< 1.5\%$	Your practice is good. Try focusing on and improving the most frequent reason for screens being performed outside the recommended window.
RED	The percentage of CCHD screens performed <u>before 24 hours OR after 48 hours of age</u> at your organization is $\geq 1.5\%$	You need to improve the timing element of your CCHD screening practice.

Low Volume Submitters

NSO acknowledges that because of low birth volumes, some institutions or midwifery practices will experience high unsatisfactory CCHD screen percentage rates. For now, NSO is providing the percentage unsatisfactory metric in all reports. When ascertaining opportunities for improvement, low volume submitters should review the absolute number of unsatisfactory screens submitted.

Important to Note:

Although a screen performed prior to 24 hours of age is associated with a 10X higher false positive rate, it is recognized that a screen performed early is preferred to no screen completed at all.

Also, Newborn Screening Ontario does recommend that babies be clinically stable for a CCHD screen. Therefore, it may be appropriate to screen an NICU baby after 48 hours and less than 8 days of age or at time of discharge if less than 8 days of age. (Please refer to the SCN/NICU CCHD Screening Protocol for guidelines)