

NEWBORN SCREENING HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TIP SHEET: PARENT NOTIFICATION OF DRIED BLOOD SPOT (DBS) SCREEN

Bedside health care provider to discuss with parents prior to DBS screening:

- Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO) administers a screening program to test for over 25 rare but serious and treatable diseases in all babies who are born in Ontario.
- Babies who have these diseases usually seem well at birth, and best outcomes are achieved if they are detected and treated before symptoms develop.
- We will place a few drops of blood from a heel prick onto a filter paper and send this to the NSO lab at CHEO for testing. This small amount of blood is safe even for small babies.
- The sample is kept at NSO for further testing if your baby develops health problems later in childhood and to help with quality assurance of the program. If you want your sample returned or destroyed after the testing is done, you can request this as well.
- These screening tests are the standard of care for all babies born in Ontario, however you can opt out of these tests if you choose.
- More information about the program can be found on the NSO website at <https://www.newbornscreening.on.ca>

