



## Frontline Script for Biliary Atresia Screening

- ✓ Ensure parents/families have an Infant Stool Colour Card (ISCC) to screen at home.

### Explain the following at time of discharge to parents/families:

1. Biliary atresia (BA) is a rare but serious disease where bile cannot get from the liver to the stool (poop). Babies with BA can seem well at first but can develop pale coloured poop as one of the first signs of this problem. We can screen for this liver problem by watching for any pale poop and reporting it if it occurs. Without treatment, babies with BA will develop life-threatening liver damage. Treatment is most effective when babies are identified before they are 1 month old.
2. It is important to check your baby's poop every day for the first month of life. You can do this by comparing your baby's poop colour to the numbered pictures on the infant stool colour card that you will take home with you. Please note that it is normal for newborn poop to transition from very dark meconium to greenish then to yellow colour towards the end of the first week of life.

**Screening Advice for Preterm Infants:** If baby is born before 37 weeks of age, continue screening until 1 month post due date. Babies born preterm have a higher chance of developing BA and may develop symptoms later. We recommend screening their poop for longer than babies born full term.

3. If your baby's poop colour is closest to picture numbers 7, 8, or 9 on the ISCC:
  - This is normal; keep screening for your baby's first month of life.
4. If your baby's poop colour is closest to picture numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 on the ISCC:
  - These are abnormal colours and might mean there is a problem.
  - Don't be alarmed. Please remember this is a screening tool and not a diagnostic test.
  - Contact Newborn Screening Ontario using the contact information on the card:

Phone – or – Email – or – Website – or – QR code

- A clinical team member from Newborn Screening Ontario will contact you by the next business day to discuss your concern and determine if any next steps need to be taken.
- The Newborn Screening Ontario clinical team member will only be able to assist with concerns you have about the pale colour of your baby's poop. If you have any concerns other than poop colour about your baby, you should contact your family doctor or pediatrician.
- In addition to calling Newborn Screening Ontario, if you also decide to go see your baby's doctor about this problem, please bring this card with you to the visit.
- We recommend screening for 1 month after birth, but if you notice pale stools after this time, please feel free to still contact NSO.

More information about Biliary Atresia and screening (if needed) can be found at:

<https://www.newbornscreening.on.ca/poop>

*When identification and treatment start early, babies with biliary atresia can have a better chance to grow and develop normally.*

Thank you for your frontline contribution to newborn screening in Ontario.

(see reverse)



## Frontline Script for Biliary Atresia Screening

### NEWBORNS ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

All newborns should be screened for biliary atresia regardless of whether they are in-hospital or at home!

#### DURING HOSPITALIZATION:

- ✓ **Ensure Infant Stool Colour Card (ISCC) is at bedside/accessible for screening.**

#### Explain the following to parents/families:

1. We are monitoring the baby's stool (poop) colour. Pale coloured poop can be an early sign of biliary atresia.
2. Biliary atresia (BA) is a rare but serious disease where bile cannot get from the liver to the poop. Babies with BA can seem well at first but can develop pale coloured poop as one of the first signs of this problem. We can screen for this liver problem by watching for any pale poop. Treatment is most effective when babies are identified before they are 1 month old (1 month past due date).

**Important:** If pale poop is detected while the baby is hospitalized, please contact NSO if possible.

#### AT DISCHARGE:

#### **BILIARY ATRESIA SCREENING WINDOW**

**Term (37 weeks or more):** Screen for the first month of life

**Pre-term (36 weeks + 6 days or less):** Screen until one month past the baby's due date

If baby is still within the screening window as described above:

- ✓ **Ensure parents/families have an Infant Stool Colour Card (ISCC) to screen at home.**
- ✓ **Refer to the other side of this script for information to be communicated to parents/families at discharge.**

(see reverse)