

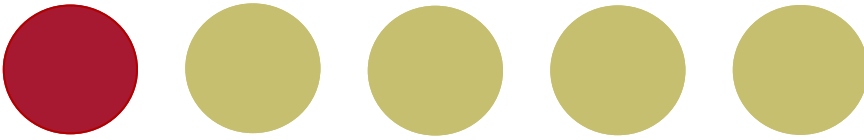
Newborn Screening Bulletin #96

August 27, 2015

Improvement in Transit Times

Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO) has reviewed the data from the first quarter of 2015 and is pleased to report an overall improvement in transit times. This improvement is due to the hard work and dedication of hospitals and midwifery practice groups who invested their time and care into ensuring the timeliness of newborn screening.

Included with this bulletin you will find the most recent transit time graphs, which display the number of days between newborn screening sample collection and receipt at NSO. While Batchograms help individual hospitals and midwifery practice monitor their own performance in this area, transit time graphs show how they are performing compared to their peers. The 2014 transit time graphs, previously distributed in January of this year, have been included for comparison. Evidence of improvements are corroborated by the increase in the number of hospitals and midwife practices meeting or exceeding a 1 day transit time “average”. A formal analysis of transit time changes since January is currently being conducted; results of that analysis will be provided to you when it is complete. The analysis will identify institutions that have achieved statistically significant decreases in their transit times since the original communications in January.



Since NSO started providing the newborn screening report card, we have received many requests from hospitals and midwifery practices for more detailed data and more frequent reports. We have responded to all requests for sample-level data, and used your feedback to refine our report card and increase the frequency of distribution. We are also using your suggestions to expand the report card to include indicators such as age at sample collection and unsatisfactory samples in future editions of the report card. Please continue to provide this input; it will help us achieve our goal of continuously enhancing the report card so that it provides you with the greatest benefit possible.

NSO is seeking input on posting the transit time graphs (like the ones attached) in the submitter bulletin section of our website beginning with the next quarterly report. As you know, this is a public but non-publicized location of our website that you can access at your leisure. Please let us know if you have any concerns with this. In keeping with the practice of making health quality information more transparent, we would like to publicize the availability of this information on our website over time and would appreciate your input regarding this as well.

Lastly, we would like to commend you for all of your efforts in improving the timeliness of newborn screening for Ontario babies.