



## Newborn Screening Bulletin 2017-2

January 24, 2017

### CHANGES IN NEWBORN SCREENING

2017 promises to be an exciting year for newborn screening in Ontario. Along with the launch of Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) screening, Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO) is rolling out some other changes to help improve the screening service we provide. This bulletin contains detailed information about new recommendations for time of sample collection, changes to the newborn screening blood dot card, and shorter timeframes for the identification of infants who may have a missed newborn screen. Please ensure you share this information with all staff members involved in newborn screening.

#### Timing of Newborn Screening Sample Collection

The NSO Advisory Council has approved the recommendation to reduce the optimal screening timeframe to **24-48 hours**. NSO performed an extensive data analysis and literature review and determined that this change is safe and will decrease infant's age at diagnosis by at least one day. Since almost all hospital-born infants in obstetrics/family physician care are having their screen done soon after 24 hours, we have strong observational data in Ontario that supports changing to this age. Best practice guidelines for bloodspot screening in most other jurisdictions recommend 24-48 hours of age for newborn screening sample collection.

#### Earlier Missed Screen Alerts

NSO is pleased to note that due to your hard work in ensuring samples are shipped promptly, NSO is receiving samples and performing testing sooner. Thus we are able to reduce the criteria for Missed Screen alerts from BORN to 7 days of age (rather than 14 days currently). This means that submitters will be alerted to potential missed screens earlier, which may allow for easier retrieval of the infant. The success of the Missed Screen process is dependent on timely BORN entry. Alerts may still occur on older infants if BORN entry is delayed. NSO provides missed screen alerts to help ensure that every baby in Ontario receives a timely newborn screen; however, it is the responsibility of the individual hospital/midwifery practice to develop their own process to ensure all infants are offered newborn screening. This change to the missed screen timeframe will begin in February 2017.

