



**Bulletin #80**  
**June 5, 2014**

Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO) would like to make you aware of the following updates. Please circulate this bulletin to all those involved in newborn screening at your institution or practice.

**1) Increase in the quantity of blood required to perform newborn screening**

As you know, whenever possible, 5 uniform blood spots should be collected for the newborn screen. As described in the Newborn Screening Manual, NSO punches small holes in these blood spots, which are then used for analysis. The number of holes punched from the bloodspot cards has recently increased from 8 to 9 due to the addition of Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) and changes in NSO's screen methods for galactosemia and biotinidase deficiency. Therefore, failure to collect the appropriate number of blood spots may result in the sample being unsatisfactory due to insufficient quantity of blood to perform testing.

**2) Newborn Screening Manual now available online**

An electronic version of the Newborn Screening Manual is now on the NSO website: [http://www.newbornscreening.on.ca/data/1/rec\\_docs/795\\_CHO0093-NSM-Web.pdf](http://www.newbornscreening.on.ca/data/1/rec_docs/795_CHO0093-NSM-Web.pdf)

If your institution/practice hasn't yet received a hard copy, please contact NSO.

**3) Video "Newborn Screening in Ontario: A small test with big benefits"**

An updated video for parents about newborn screening is now available in 20 languages. Check out NSO's [YouTube channel](#) to see these videos. Alternatively, a DVD with all languages can be ordered free of charge from [Service Ontario](#): [Publication # 018603](#).