



Ontario Newborn Screening Program
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
Department of Genetics
401 Smyth, Ottawa Ont. K1H 8L1

BULLETIN #26 – March 11, 2008

Cystic Fibrosis Screening to begin April 2008!

The Ontario Newborn Screening Program is targeting a start date of April 7, 2008 to begin screening for Cystic Fibrosis (CF).

The screening test combines the detection of immunoreactive trypsinogen (IRT) with DNA analysis for the most common CF gene mutations as a second line of testing. A minority of samples (about 4%) will have an initial high IRT level, which will trigger the DNA testing. This will cause a delay in reporting by a maximum of 2 weeks for some babies. All screen positive results will be treated as urgent and referrals for follow-up will **not** be delayed.

You will notice a new result line for CF on the newborn screening report. Please alert the appropriate managers in your institution of this change to ensure that your lab information system is updated appropriately.

For more detailed information about CF newborn screening, please see our website: www.newbornscreening.on.ca. Information will be posted near the end of the month.

Again, thank you for your cooperation and assistance in making the Ontario Newborn Screening Program the most effective and efficient that it can be.

Additional information about the Ontario Newborn Screening Program can be found at:
www.newbornscreening.on.ca

These bulletins are being circulated to keep you abreast of changes to the Ontario Newborn Screening program. Please share this information with any relevant personnel in your hospital / clinic. If there is someone who would like to be added to this list, contact:
Shelley Kennedy or Sari Zelenietz, Genetic Counsellors
(613) 738-3222, option #1; NewbornScreening@cheo.on.ca