

BULLETIN #9 – November 20, 2006

Hemoglobinopathy Screening to begin November 24, 2006!

The Ontario Newborn Screening Laboratory is set to start screening for sickle cell disease on November 24, 2006. This will include screening for HbSS, HbSC, and HbS/ β -thalassemia.

In order to provide an accurate screening result, the **infant's transfusion status MUST be indicated on the newborn screening requisition**. If the baby has been transfused, the date of the most recent transfusion must be provided. Since donor red blood cells will persist in the circulation for a number of months and will interfere with the screening test, a repeat sample will be requested for every baby who has had a transfusion. This repeat sample should be drawn 4-6 months after the last transfusion.

For more information, about these blood disorders, see http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/child/screening/pdf/fs_scd.pdf.

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:
http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/child/screening/screen_sum.html

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:
Tillie Chiu or Sari Zelenietz, Genetic Counsellors
(613) 738-3222, option #1; NewbornScreening@cheo.on.ca