



## **Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO)**

### **What is newborn screening?**

- Newborn screening is the testing of babies shortly after birth for treatable diseases that are not usually apparent in the newborn period.
- Early detection of these diseases through newborn screening prevents serious health problems and can even save lives.
- Using a heelprick test, a small amount of blood is collected from all babies shortly after birth. This blood is sent to NSO where it is tested for 29 diseases. With these diseases, early diagnosis is the key to effective treatment.

### **What is NSO?**

- NSO, located at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), is the provincial program that coordinates newborn screening.
- NSO houses a world-class laboratory that performs the tests for all babies in Ontario.
- NSO screens for 29 diseases including metabolic diseases, endocrine diseases, Sickle Cell Disease, Cystic Fibrosis and, most recently, Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID).
- NSO strives to ensure that every newborn receives the highest quality screening and care for serious diseases and is a global leader in screening through research, development, education and innovation.

### **NSO's track record**

- Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO) has tested over one million newborns for rare, but treatable, diseases.
- Since NSO started at CHEO in 2006, more than 1250 babies have been diagnosed with these diseases through newborn screening.
- NSO is the most comprehensive newborn screening program in Canada and is the first province in Canada to begin testing for SCID.

For more information about NSO, please visit [www.newbornscreening.on.ca](http://www.newbornscreening.on.ca).