



Newborn Screening Bulletin 2018-4

April 18, 2018

EXPANDED HEARING SCREENING—STARTING SOON!

Newborn Screening Ontario has partnered with the Ontario Infant Hearing Program (IHP) to introduce expanded hearing screening to babies in the province. Hearing screening done by the IHP remains unchanged. Phase 1 of expanded hearing screening will involve hearing screening and testing of *select* residual dried blood spot newborn screening samples for cytomegalovirus (CMV), a common cause of hearing loss in babies and children. Phase 1 of expanded hearing screening is expected to begin throughout Spring 2018.

IHP hearing screeners will be completing hearing screening forms with parents/guardians that capture consent regarding expanded hearing screening. Copies of the hearing screening forms need to be sent to Newborn Screening Ontario. Options are available to IHP hearing screeners to send the forms directly via fax or courier, **or if the workflow of the hospital allows, hearing screening forms can be packaged together with newborn screening blood spot samples/requisitions for sending out to Newborn Screening Ontario.** Ideally, please place the hearing screening forms in a separate envelope within the package for Newborn Screening Ontario.

There are no changes to the information you provide to parents, or to your newborn screening workflow including the collection and sending out of dried blood spot newborn screening samples. The reporting of these results will also remain unchanged. Please continue to collect and send newborn screening samples at the recommended times.

Additional information regarding expanded hearing screening will be available on our website and the IHP website later this month:

www.newbornscreening.on.ca

www.ontario.ca/infantheating

Please contact us at NSO@cheo.on.ca if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued involvement in ensuring every newborn in Ontario receives newborn screening.