



CCHD Screening Newsletter 2016-1

October 26, 2016

Exciting News...Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO) will be adding Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD) as the 30th disease to the Newborn Screening Panel. At the request of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, NSO is working to implement screening for CCHD by pulse oximetry for all newborns in Ontario. The timeline for CCHD screening implementation is Winter 2017. NSO will be contributing equipment standards and educational resources to support implementation of this initiative and compliance to best practice guidelines.

CCHD occurs in 1-2 per 1000 live births, but 10-30% of diagnoses are not made prior to discharge from hospital based on prenatal detection and physical exam alone. Babies with CCHD need surgery or catheter intervention in the first year of life and undetected CCHD accounts for more deaths than any other congenital malformation.

The addition of CCHD screening aims to identify and treat affected infants early to prevent adverse health outcomes, and is expected to allow earlier detection and intervention for about 50-100 babies in Ontario each year. In order to achieve this goal, every infant must be offered high quality and timely screening, and this will require the collaboration of health care providers across the province of Ontario.

A number of Ontario birthing hospitals and midwifery practices have initiated routine pulse oximetry screening for CCHD, or have taken initial steps towards implementation. NSO is collecting this information as the experience of these groups already screening for CCHD is invaluable.

In hospital-specific CCHD Screening Newsletter:

Screening by pulse oximetry is a simple process that can be easily incorporated into your existing discharge routine. A few points to consider:

- *The optimal screening window for CCHD is between 24 and 48 hours of age, to allow for transitional cardiovascular changes to occur, and be prior to the baby decompensating from CCHD.*
- *In the case of babies discharged prior to 24 hours of age, the hospital will be responsible to ensure that there is a plan in place for them to be screened at the appropriate time.*

More information will follow in the coming months by way of regular CCHD newsletters to keep you informed of our progress. These newsletters will include more detailed information on various aspects of CCHD screening, such as:

- CCHD screening algorithm and recommended protocols
- Potential change in practice for staff at hospitals and midwifery practice groups
- Pulse oximetry equipment
- Changes to the newborn screening card
- Education opportunities

We look forward to working with you all to achieve the highest quality CCHD screening system for Ontario kids.

Newborn Screening Ontario, CCHD Screening Implementation Team

For more information or to be added to the distribution list for email updates NSOCCHD@cheo.on.ca