

May 2020



# NTQA UPDATE



*This update is provided to individuals who have expressed an interest, or who have been identified as a key stakeholder, in Ontario's NTQA initiative.*

## BACKGROUND

NT ultrasound, as a part of provincial 1<sup>st</sup> trimester screening for chromosome anomalies, has been without a formal quality assessment (QA) program since its introduction to Ontario. As a result, sonographer performance has degraded over time. To account for the wide range of sonographer performance, the Ontario Multiple Marker Screening (MMS) labs have been developing and updating "sonographer-specific curves" to adjust the NT values submitted by each sonographer and bring systematically under or over measured NT values closer to the Fetal Medicine Foundation normative curve.

Prenatal Screening Ontario at the Better Outcomes Registry and Network (BORN) Ontario has been mandated to develop and implement a QA program for NT measurements as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester prenatal screening program. This initiative will require the assistance and input of many individuals, associations, and boards to ensure the NTQA Program is robust and sustainable, and also to generate engagement of the sonographer community. The goal of NTQA is to support the ultrasound community in improving 1<sup>st</sup> trimester screening performance, work closely with the MSS labs to ensure accurate and reliable screening results, and ultimately to provide Ontario with excellent obstetrical screening.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Background

Recent Activity

Current Initiatives

Next Steps



Improved BORN login procedures are coming  
**June 1, 2020!**

see our Current Initiatives section for more details





## RECENT ACTIVITIES

- The NTQA Working Group met on March 6, 2020 to review the landscape of NT ultrasound in Ontario based on feedback from a province wide survey completed by sonographers.
- New standardized Ontario eFTS requisitions have been rolled out across the province. Updates to the requisition include:
  - ✓ The accepted CRL range is now consistent across all Ontario labs (**45-84mm**).
  - ✓ The practicing sonographer is now required to include their full name and signature.
- Ultrasound Resources and Point of Care Tools have been launched on the PSO website including:
  - ✓ Information on your personalized NT performance distribution
  - ✓ NT ID number and NT data table resources
  - ✓ NTQA Email Communications Archive
  - ✓ NTQA Update Newsletter Archive
- PSO is aware that the impact of COVID-19 on the imaging community has been significant, with some imaging centres operating with reduced hours or temporarily closing. We have worked with our Ministry and laboratory partners to ensure pregnant individuals still have access to high quality screening, even if they cannot attend for an NT ultrasound. PSO would like to thank sonographers for navigating these unprecedented times and for their dedication as front line workers during this pandemic.



### HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to us by email at:

[PSO@bornontario.ca](mailto:PSO@bornontario.ca)

## CURRENT INITIATIVES

- The BORN Information System (BIS) upgrade was postponed due to Covid-19 and has been rescheduled for June 1 with a downtime of Friday May 29, 2020 4:00pm to Monday June 1, 2020 8:00am. This update will include the following upgrades to sonographer usability:

- ✓ Access to the BIS from all internet browsers (e.g., Google Chrome) and devices (e.g., cell phone, iPad).
- ✓ New multi-factor authentication (MFA) to enhance security and protect your information.



When you log in to the new BIS, you will be required to enter your username, password, and a numeric code sent to your MFA method

- All ultrasound practitioners will authenticate by phone
- ✓ Password Resets *You spoke, we listened!*
  - No matter where you are or when you access the BIS, you will be able to use the "forgot password" link to change or update your password.
- In order to offer patients and providers the most accurate information on NT availability during the COVID-19 pandemic, a survey has been distributed to all sites registered on PSO's NT services map of Ontario inquiring about the status or hour changes to their NT services so that the map can reflect accurate availability.

### NEXT STEPS:

*The NTQA Working Group will be meeting again over the summer to discuss what NTQA requirements could look like for sonographers in the future and outline the next steps to initiating sonographer requirements under this program as they relate to curve and image auditing.*

