



PRENATAL SCREENING
DÉPISTAGE PRÉNATAL
ONTARIO

NTQA UPDATE

Background

Since its introduction to Ontario, NT ultrasound as a part of provincial 1st trimester screening for chromosome anomalies has been without a formal quality assessment (QA) program. 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 to 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 1st 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.

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NTQA Goals

- To support the ultrasound community in improving 1st trimester screening performance
- To work closely with the MSS Labs to ensure accurate and reliable screening results
- Ultimately, to provide Ontario with excellent obstetrical screening

Current Initiatives

- Understand the current NTQA landscape in the province
- Obtain current contact information for all NT sonographers in Ontario
- Encourage all sonographers to login and access their BORN NTQA curve

Hope you enjoyed the holidays & we wish you all the best in 2019!

Recent Activity

- The inaugural meeting of the NTQA Working Group was held on October 5, 2018. The meeting was both successful and productive with membership consisting of enthusiastic and hugely experienced individuals coming together to strategize outreach to our province.
- Sonographers may have seen a recent information release via Sonography Canada introducing Prenatal Screening Ontario (PSO) at BORN Ontario, and also instructing active NT sonographers to update their current contact information with BORN by April 1, 2019. The goal of this initiative is establish a current database of contact details in order to reach out to all NT sonographers in the province with NTQA information and requirements. A survey was also attached to the communication so that PSO can gain insight as to the current landscape in NT scanning in Ontario.
- A similar communication was sent to Ontario radiology managers via the Ontario Association of Radiology Managers, informing radiology managers of the requirements sent to sonographers and resources to support their departments.

Next Steps

- The next meeting of the NTQA Working Group will be held on 25/01/2019
- Prenatal Screening Ontario will be present at the Sonography Canada conference in spring 2019

If you have any questions or comments regarding NTQA in the province, please reach out to the Prenatal Screening Program at prenatalscreening@bornontario.ca