



PRENATAL SCREENING
DÉPISTAGE PRÉNATAL
ONTARIO

NTQA UPDATE

Introduction

Prenatal Screening Ontario (PSO) 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 that the 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 1st trimester screening performance, work closely with the Ontario MMS labs to ensure accurate and reliable screening results, and ultimately to provide Ontario with excellent obstetrical screening.

IN THIS ISSUE

INTRODUCTION

RECENT ACTIVITY

CURRENT INITIATIVES

NEXT STEPS

GET INVOLVED

Recent Activity

- PSO gave a webinar hosted by Sonography Canada to educate sonographers on proper NT image protocol; PSO/BORN Ontario's NTQA program including the registration process; how to optimize the use of the ultrasound machine; and how to deal with difficult NT scans. ~ 470 individual sonographers signed up for the webinar with 332 computers logging in to the session.
- PSO and various prenatal screening stakeholders met with Health Quality Ontario (HQO) in Toronto to discuss the application of their framework to PSO's prenatal screening continuum.
- The new PSO website has been launched! This includes a "[For Sonographers](#)" section with detailed information on NT registration and NT quality assurance. Coming Soon: NT Ultrasound Resources/Point-of-Care Tools page and a NTQA Updates newsfeed. Take a tour and tell us what you think by emailing your feedback to pso@bornontario.ca <https://www.prenatalscreeningontario.ca>
- Approximately 95% of all NT certified sonographers and physicians in Ontario are now registered in the BORN Information System (BIS). A BIG thank you to the Ontario MMS labs for all of their assistance in this process.



Collaborative work will continue to be done by the PSO Ultrasound Clinical Content Specialist (CCS) and various stakeholders to locate the remaining 5% of practitioners, but the bulk of the registrations are now complete.

- The first official NTQA email communication was sent out to all ultrasound practitioners registered in the BIS to thank them for registering with PSO at BORN Ontario, to inform them of the new PSO website, and to remind them of the NTQA program expectations for 2019.

Current Initiatives

- Continue to raise awareness and to educate the ultrasound community on the status of NTQA in the province and the developing expectations of PSO's NTQA program.
- Gather baseline data (2018) to assess the NT ultrasound landscape in Ontario. This data will assist PSO in making informed changes to the requirements for obtaining and maintaining NT certification in the province and will be used as a benchmark for measuring sonographer performance change as the NTQA program is implemented.



Next Steps

PSO will give two NTQA poster presentations at the BORN Conference November 7-8, 2019).

The next NTQA Working Group meeting will occur on September 27, 2019.

Work with various stakeholders will be done to define the short-term expectations (2020) and discuss the long-term expectations of the NTQA program.

Get Involved!

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



PRENATAL SCREENING
DÉPISTAGE PRÉNATAL
ONTARIO

**Watch for our next
issue: Winter 2020**
