

BULLETIN #20 – July 6, 2007

Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia Screening Intermediate Elevations reporting to begin July 15, 2007 and Launch of Newborn Screening Website!

1. CAH Screening Intermediate Elevations Reporting

The Ontario Newborn Screening Program is targeting a start date of July 15, 2007 to complete the rollout of screening for Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH). The laboratory measures 17-Hydroxyprogesterone (17OHP) as the marker for CAH and to date we have been reporting only critical elevations of 17OHP indicating a very high risk of CAH. As of July 15, 2007, we will begin reporting intermediate elevations of 17OHP indicating a moderate risk of CAH. Our hope is that this interim period has allowed the Regional Treatment Centres at Ontario's academic children's hospitals to prepare to care for the relatively large number of babies who will have intermediate elevations of 17OHP (an estimated 200 out of 135,000 births per year).

As a reminder, 17OHP levels are normally higher in low birth weight babies and the screening cutoffs will be birth weight specific. **It is therefore essential that the infant's Birth Weight be indicated on the newborn screening requisition in order to provide an accurate screening result.**

For more information about CAH, please see:

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/child/screening/pdf/fs_cah.pdf

2. Launch of Newborn Screening Website

The Ontario Newborn Screening Program is pleased to announce the launch of our website: www.newbornscreening.on.ca. Our hope is that this website will be a valuable resource for parents, health care professionals, and the public. Please take a look at the website and let us know what you think of it!

Again, thank you for your cooperation and assistance in making the Ontario Newborn Screening Program the most effective and efficient that it can be.

Additional information about the Ontario Newborn Screening Program can be found at:
www.newbornscreening.on.ca

These bulletins are being circulated to keep you abreast of changes to the Ontario Newborn Screening program. Please share this information with any relevant personnel in your hospital / clinic. If there is someone who would like to be added to this list, contact:
Shelley Kennedy or Sari Zelenietz, Genetic Counsellors
(613) 738-3222, option #1; NewbornScreening@cheo.on.ca