

BULLETIN #72
November 28, 2013

- 1) **The NSO lab is about to move and will have a new lab license!** While still located at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO), our lab is moving into new space. Please update your records. Samples in the system addressed to our old address will still reach us without delay.

Effective December 2, 2013, our new address is:

415 Smyth Road
Ottawa, ON
K1H 8M8

Effective December 2, 2013, our new lab license # is: 4282

- 2) **Watchdog report in the US last week:** The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel published a series of articles last week (links below) about delays in newborn screening in the US. State lab downtimes on the weekends and batching of samples by birth hospitals were the reasons for these delays. In Ontario we face similar issues. Our weekend downtimes are largely dictated by the logistical and financial challenges of both sending and receiving samples on the weekend. What can be controlled is to minimize the batching of samples, and ensuring they get into the courier system as soon as possible following collection. Once received at NSO, samples are processed immediately and results for most infants are available within 24-48 hours of receipt in the lab.

- a) Batching by hospitals (article 1): <http://bit.ly/1hQ8VwJ>
- b) NBS programs not working on the weekend: <http://bit.ly/HJcbwL>
- c) Batching by hospitals (article 2): <http://bit.ly/1bdLJlL>

- 3) **Ordering health care provider for newborn screens:**

The 'ordering health care provider' field on our requisition form is considered a mandatory field, but NSO has not rejected samples without this information previously. Please be advised that NSO will start enforcing this in the next few months. This has always been a lab accreditation requirement, but in addition we will shortly begin reporting results via the Ontario Laboratories Information System (OLIS), which we cannot do without knowing which physician or midwife is legally ordering this test from your institution/practice.

Thank you for being a part of the success of newborn screening for all the babies in Ontario.



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