



PRENATAL SCREENING
DÉPISTAGE PRÉNATAL
ONTARIO

NTQA UPDATE

Background

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 first trimester prenatal screening program. This initiative will require the assistance and input of many individuals, associations, and boards to ensure that the NTQA Program is robust and sustainable, and to generate engagement of the sonographer community. The goal of NTQA is to support the ultrasound community in improving first trimester screening performance, work closely with the MMS labs to ensure accurate and reliable screening results, and ultimately provide Ontario with excellent obstetrical screening.

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Recent Activity

- The NTQA Working Group met on September 27, 2019 to define short-term expectations and discuss long-term plans for the NTQA program in 2020 and beyond.
- PSO gave two NTQA poster presentations at the biennial BORN conference (November 7-8, 2019).
- 2 email campaigns were sent out to all ultrasound practitioners registered in the BORN Information System (BIS). The first educated the imaging community on the negative downstream effects of NT data table and NT ID number sharing. The second provided the community with information on how to properly interpret their personalized NT performance distributions.
- PSO finished gathering and interpreting baseline data (2018) defining the NT ultrasound landscape in Ontario. Interactive maps were created to inform the public on where NT ultrasound services can be accessed in Ontario.

Current Initiatives

- Continue to raise awareness and to educate the ultrasound community on the developing expectations of PSO's NTQA program.
- Working to finalize and format tip sheets that will accompany the roll out of the new standardized MMS requisition. These tip sheets will assist physicians and sonographers in accurately completing this form.

Current Initiatives (continued)

- Requests submitted for changes to the BIS that will increase usability of the current NTQA platform and ensure its expandability to accommodate new functions not yet developed. Working to implement and inform sonographers of these changes.
- Working to create a series of NTQA resources and launch the *Resources and Point-of-Care Tools* web page for sonographers.
- Working to frame, define, and implement a detailed plan for upscaling PSO's NTQA remediation efforts.

Next Steps

- Implement the NTQA expectations for sonographers in 2020 including new curve monitoring requirements and image auditing recommendations.
- Further articulate the plans and develop the resources that will support the long-term goals of the NTQA program.

Watch for the next **NTQA Update** in the Spring!

