



Newborn Screening Bulletin 2025-10

November 21, 2025

Submitter webinar follow-up

Thank you to those who attended our webinar last week! If you missed it, or would like to share it with your teams, the recording will be available to view until the end of December: [Beyond the Screen - Real-Life Cases & Lessons from Newborn Screening Ontario](#)

- If you watched or attended the webinar, we would love your feedback! Please take a moment complete our [Feedback Form](#).
- If you have any questions about the webinar or newborn screening in general, please contact us at 613-738-3222 or fill out our [Submitter Contact Form](#).

A few answers to questions we received during the webinar:

- **Packed red blood cell (PRBC) transfusions:** If a baby needs a PRBC transfusion before 24 hours of age, collect the first dried blood spot sample before the transfusion, when possible. A second sample must be collected at the recommended 24-48 hours of age. Please see our [Special Considerations](#) page for more information on transfusions and sample collection timing.
- **Total parenteral nutrition (TPN):** If a baby is receiving TPN, the TPN should be paused for **at least 3 hours** prior to sample collection. This also applies for any repeat collections while the baby remains on TPN. Please indicate how many hours the TPN was held on the card; if it was not held, indicate 0 hours. Please see our recommended [TPN Hold Protocol](#) for more information.
- **Unsatisfactory samples:** A dried blood spot sample may be considered unsatisfactory for several reasons. Detailed criteria, along with tips for obtaining a satisfactory sample, are available here: [Specimen Quality Reasons](#).

NSO pamphlets and infant stool colour cards (ISCCs)

NSO pamphlets

- Pamphlets are available to order through VWR, the same way you order dried blood spot cards and ISCCs! Pamphlets are available in English and French, and come in packs of 100.

Check your stock of ISCCs!

- Ensure you have enough ISCCs on hand. Every infant born in Ontario must go home with an **original** ISCC.
- **Why it matters:** Frontline healthcare providers should explain to parents that screening for pale stools—an early sign of liver disease—until one month past the baby's due date is critical for early detection of **biliary atresia**. The ISCC is a validated clinical tool that must be professionally printed to maintain colour accuracy and support reliable parent/guardian screening.

More information on ordering supplies can be found here: [Dried Blood Spot Cards, ISCCs, and NSO Pamphlets | Submitter Hub](#).

