



## Admitted Infant Tip Sheet

### Background:

BA screening using an Infant Stool Colour Card (ISCC) can assist in the early identification and treatment of biliary atresia, resulting in better outcomes for affected babies. All newborns should be screened for biliary atresia for the first month of life regardless of whether they are being cared for in the hospital or at home.

Hospitalized infants are not excluded from Biliary Atresia Screening. Frontline health care providers caring for admitted infants in areas including NICU, SCN, and pediatric wards are responsible for understanding the screening process, monitoring the infant's stool when the infant is a hospital inpatient, and ensuring that babies who are still eligible for screening receive an ISCC and instructions on how to use it prior to discharge home.

### How is screening for hospitalized infants different?

While an established referral process exists for infants at home who screen positive for BA, the hospitalized infant will follow a slightly different pathway. If pale stool is identified, NSO recommends that frontline healthcare providers alert the MRP for that infant. Please also obtain consent from the parent and contact NSO to notify us about this 'screen positive case', as we need to track all positive screens and we can help facilitate referral to pediatric gastroenterology.

### Suggested practice ideas:

Keep the ISCC at the bedside or easily accessible to staff caring for the infant. This also prompts discussion and teaching opportunities with families.

Monitor and compare the infant's stool colour to the images on the ISCC at every diaper change.

If pale stool is detected, alert the MRP. Please also obtain consent from the parent and contact NSO so we can record this 'screen positive' case and can help facilitate referral to pediatric gastroenterology.

### BILIARY ATRESIA SCREENING WINDOW

**Term (37 weeks or more):** Screen for the first month of life

**Pre-term (36 weeks + 6 days or less):** Screen until one month past the baby's due date

### DISCHARGE DURING SCREENING WINDOW:

If the infant is still within the screening window at the time of discharge, please ensure families have an ISCC to continue screening at home and provide them with instructions on how to screen. Document the card distribution and teaching provided in your discharge checklist/patient medical record, as per your organization's documentation standard.

**Please note: Premature babies have a longer screening window. Screen for one month past the baby's due date.**

For more information, please see our website at [www.newbornscreening.on.ca](http://www.newbornscreening.on.ca) or contact us at [nsoba@cheo.on.ca](mailto:nsoba@cheo.on.ca)