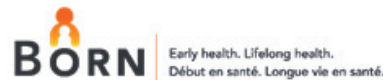


## How is BORN Data Impacting the Quality of Nuchal Translucency Measurements?



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### The Nuchal Translucency Ultrasound

The fetal nuchal translucency (NT) is a collection of fluid that is present at the back of the fetal neck which is measured by sonographers in the first trimester (11-14 weeks) of pregnancy. The maximum thickness is 3.5 mm. Increased NT thickness can be associated with chromosomal differences, cardiac defects, and genetic syndromes.

In Ontario, the NT measurement along with blood-work and demographic information, is submitted to Ontario Multiple Marker Screening (MMS) laboratories. This information is used to calculate a patient's risk of having a pregnancy affected with Down syndrome or Trisomy 18.

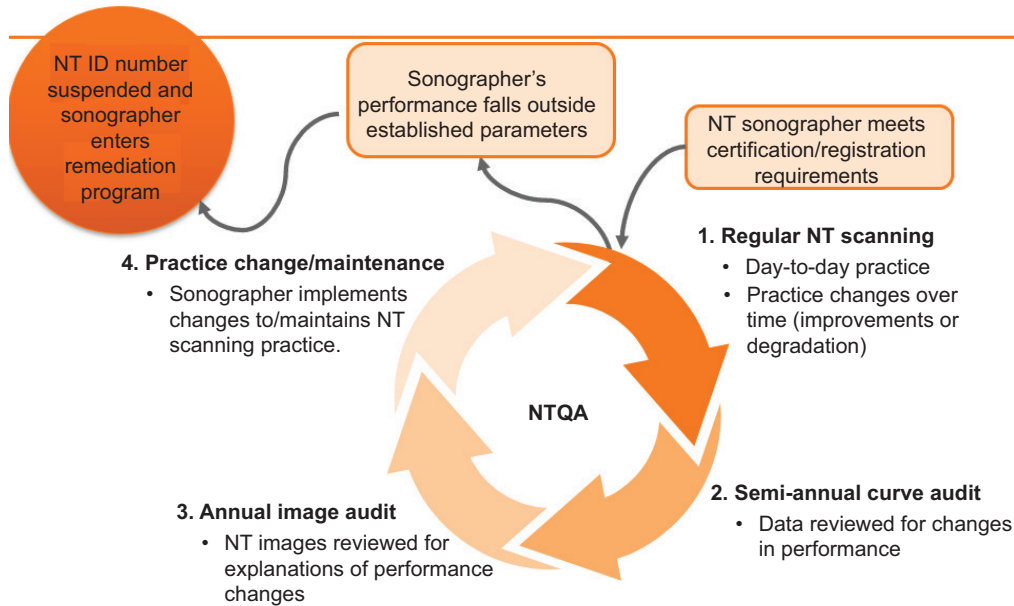
### What is BORN?

The Better Outcomes Registry & Network (BORN) is Ontario's perinatal, newborn and child registry which collects, interprets, shares and protects high-quality data through the BORN Information System (BIS). Prenatal Screening Ontario (PSO), a program within BORN Ontario, coordinates prenatal screening including the quality assurance of nuchal translucency ultrasound and first trimester screening.

### NTQA Program

The Nuchal Translucency Quality Assurance (NTQA) program in Ontario supports NT registered sonographers in their practice by assessing their NT measurement performance and providing them with

## NTQA in Ontario



actionable feedback to help them improve and/or maintain their skills. All sonographers who wish to provide NT measurements to the Ontario MMS labs must have their own Ontario NT ID number.

Steps to obtain an NT number include 1) Obtain the Fetal Medicine Foundation NT certificate, 2) Register with PSO at BORN Ontario, 3) Collect 15 NT/CRL data points and submit the application to Ontario MMS labs, 4) Receive an NT number. Each registered sonographer has a personalized NT performance distribution curve based on BIS data.

### Summary

Professional bodies recommend that sonographers participate in a formal NTQA program if taking NT measurements, as measurement and screening quality can deteriorate over time. PSO's unique NTQA data based program allows sonographers to

review their own NT distribution curve, understand biases and habits in their ultrasound practice, and enhance their performance.

To hear about one sonographer's personal experience with the NTQA program, see Katie's story: <https://www.bornontario.ca/en/publications/born-2021-2022-annual-report.aspx>

Visit the Prenatal Screening Ontario website (<https://www.prenatalscreeningontario.ca/en/psso-for-sonographers/for-sonographers.aspx>) to find information including:

- Obtaining an Ontario NT ID number
- Logging into the BORN Information System
- Accessing Resources and Point-of-Care Tools
- Maintaining NT Certification
- fetalmedicine.org

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