



BORN *Information* BITS

Deployment Is Well Under Way

Spring is in the air, and with it comes a renewed sense of energy and optimism – a perfect time for BORN to be launching its new Information System. As of today, 42 hospitals have gone ‘live’ with the new system along with all the Newborn Screening labs. 755 babies have been entered into the BORN Information System – thanks to much hard work on the part of our hospital and midwifery partners. Each week more will go-live, with the goal of full deployment by the end of March 2012.

The focus of this edition of the *BORN Information Bits* is to address questions related to privacy.

Q. Why is consent not required for patients being entered into the BORN Information System?

A. BORN was granted prescribed registry status under the Personal Health Information Act (PHIPA) in November 2009. Registry status affords BORN the authority to collect, use and disclose personal health information without consent for the purpose of “facilitating or improving the provision of health care” when it is impossible or impractical to obtain consent. In addition the information can also be used for secondary purposes such as research. This special authority requires BORN to develop and adhere to rigorous privacy policies – and have them reviewed and approved by the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC). This independent body is responsible for advocating and enforcing the rights of the public. Over a year was spent developing policies and procedures that meet the VERY RIGOROUS requirements of the IPC. To be permitted to function as a Registry, BORN is subject to a thorough review, site visits and audits with the purpose of ensuring the privacy of the public is respected. This is a privilege to be taken very seriously and is not afforded to many – there are only a limited number of prescribed Registries in the province of Ontario. For more detailed information, please contact the BORN Privacy officer who can respond to specific questions and address the reasons why Registry status is vital to BORN (compared to a traditional consent-based model). Privacy information can also be viewed at www.bornontario.ca/privacy

Anyone with access to the BORN database, or researchers with BORN datasets, can be audited by the Privacy Officer at any time.



Q. What is an example of a health care benefit resulting from BORN being a Registry?

A. One example of how registry status improves care is related to Newborn Screening. Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO) is one of the databases integrated into the BORN Information System. Newborn Screening Ontario tests for 28 rare diseases and can save lives if diagnosed early in the newborn period. By capturing every birth in the province in the BORN Information System, and then linking the births with results of newborn screening from the NSO database, we can identify babies that have not had newborn screening. BORN can send an ALERT to the health care provider to ensure the screen is offered – something that was not possible prior to the BORN Information System. It is the linking of the birth to the screening result that allows for this new safeguard; however the need for consent would put this safeguard at risk. Thus the government and IPC have recognized the need for Registry status for BORN.

Q. What is the responsibility of BORN when sharing information or reports with hospital personnel?

A. BORN employees are responsible for rigorous privacy and security procedures when sharing information – especially personal health information (e.g. encrypting reports with password protection to protect the information being shared with others). All BORN personnel have received training in confidentiality / protection of information and have reviewed BORN privacy policies and procedures.

Q. What is the responsibility of a hospital employee when communicating patient information to a BORN employee?

A. If you need to contact your Regional Coordinator or another member of the BORN team to communicate a database issue, please DO NOT include patient identifiers by e-mail. E-mail can be used to describe the issue you are experiencing; however, if you need to share specific identifiers such as the OHIP or chart # your regional coordinator should be contacted directly or via voice mail with this information. Alternatively, the information could be sent in an encrypted document with the password forwarded by phone or left on their voice mail.

Q. How does the encounter model promote adherence to privacy regulations?

A. The encounter model is structured so that the individual entering data can only access the encounters that are relevant to his/her sphere of practice. For example, if you are a clerk working in the birthing centre then you will have access to encounters specific to your role which may include labour, birth mother/birth child and postpartum mother/postpartum child. You will not have access to the NICU encounter unless you had work responsibilities in that area. Each hospital will have a local BORN administrator who will define the specific privileges for each employee. Administrative and reporting access will also be defined by the local BORN administrator.

When you log on to BORN, you will see on the landing page only the records that you have either saved in draft form or the records you have completed and submitted.

Please click on <http://free.trader-epubs.ca/doc/Hospital-News/HOS/2012020601/#12> (page 13) for additional information in an article in Hospital News, February 2012: Integrating maternal-child data for all births in Ontario.

Q. If we transfer a baby to another hospital can we go into the BORN Information system to find out the outcome?

A. Everyone with a user name and password for the BORN Information System has privilege/s associated with his/her account. Data entry for one or more of the encounters and access to reports are just a couple of examples. Privileges do not extend beyond an individual's sphere of practice; thus, a user cannot track the outcome of a baby who is transferred to another hospital.



We want to hear from you!

Please send your questions to one of the BORN Coordinators

Monica Poole	LHINs 1 & 2	mpoole@bornontario.ca
Tammy Budhwa	LHINs 5-9	tbudhwa@bornontario.ca
Connie Bartley	LHINs 5-9	cbartley@mtsinai.on.ca
Vivian Holmberg	LHINs 5-9	vholmberg@bornontario.ca
Cathy Ottenhof	LHINs 10 & 11	ottenhoc@kgh.kari.net
Glenda Hicks	LHINs 12, 13 & 14	ghicks@hrsrh.on.ca
Monica, Tammy or Connie	LHINS 3 & 4	

BORN Ontario
CHEO Research Institute | Centre for Practice-Changing Research Building
401 Smyth Road | Ottawa, ON | K1H 8L1
T: 613.737.7600 x 6022 | info@BORNOntario.ca | www.BORNOntario.ca