

TERMS OF REFERENCE PRENATAL SCREENING QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND

Ontario's prenatal screening options currently include multiple marker screening for Trisomy 21 (T21) and other disorders as well as the non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) currently only offered out-of-country for selected chromosome aneuploidies.

Current governance of prenatal screening laboratory activities falls under the jurisdiction of the individual organization within which each laboratory resides. However, as Ontario's prescribed registry for maternal-child health information, the Better Outcomes Registry & Network (BORN) is able to report on quality assurance measures including linked outcomes, expand on those reports for existing programs, and utilize aggregate data to perform further analysis on screening uptake, follow-up utilization and shifting trends in parental choice.

Quality assurance in screening is particularly important, as sensitivity and specificity measures dictate the chance of missed cases and the rate of overtreatment. As screening modalities and screening targets shift, so do the opportunities for quality measurement and improvement, necessitating an ongoing QA committee within BORN to respond to these shifts.

These terms of reference will evolve as necessary to respond to potential changes in the governance and operational structure of prenatal screening in the province.

PURPOSE

The Prenatal Screening Quality Assurance Committee will provide advice to BORN regarding quality and performance metrics, data collection and feedback mechanisms, and reporting strategies. BORN will provide access to information which will inform recommendations on how to improve the care that is provided through prenatal screening in Ontario.

This committee is not accountable or responsible for the day-to-day operational decisions or the implementation of quality assurance recommendations at the operational level.

SCOPE:

- To continually examine the existing quality assurance process for prenatal screening in Ontario. As of June 2014 this includes multiple maternal marker screening (for T21, ONTD, Trisomy 18) and nuchal translucency. This examination includes:

- Monitoring and reporting on current program performance and quality;
- Monitoring true detection rates through BORN aggregate data;
- Ensuring that the BORN Lab QA report accurately reflects the performance of Ontario's prenatal screening labs and appropriately identifies areas of potential concern;
- Identifying, collecting and providing appropriate outcome data;
- Expanding NTQA reporting capabilities, which will include review of auditing processes and ongoing evaluation of interventions
- To advise and oversee the development of new reporting and QA strategies as appropriate leveraging the BORN Information System when new screening tests are implemented.

MEMBERSHIP:

The membership will be interdisciplinary, representing the areas of content expertise for QA of prenatal screening.

- Biochemist involved in maternal multiple marker screening
- Ultrasonographer
- Genetic counsellor
- Maternal Fetal Medicine specialist
- Representative from the Ontario Association of Radiologists
- BORN Screening specialist
- Risk Management specialist
- Geneticist
- Clinician with specific expertise in Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing
- Representative from College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, preferably with expertise in Clinical Practice Parameter development and oversight.

Subcommittee members will have been selected as individuals to represent a specific expertise, rather than various interest groups or geographic regions; therefore, alternative delegates will not normally be invited to meetings.

Selection of members is also based on the acknowledged importance of continuing and formal communication between the principal advisory committees concerned with prenatal, newborn and childhood screening in Ontario.

REPORTING:

The Prenatal Screening QA Committee will report formally to BORN, with interaction with prenatal screening centres, the Maternal-Child Screening Committee and community partners as needed to accomplish its tasks.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Members will not include any person whose personal or professional activities constitute a conflict of interest. Such activities include, but are not limited to: direct ties to private industry and personal interests in developing related technologies, including patents and patents pending. Incumbent and existing members will disclose to the chair, without delay, any actual or potential situations that arise which might be reasonably interpreted as either a conflict of interest or a potential conflict of interest.

TERMS:

The chair will have a term of 2 years, but should remain as a Committee member for an additional year, for continuity. The position is renewable once, but a person may return as chair for another term after a cycle of a different chair.

Members of the committee will have terms of 3 years, renewable once. Start-up appointments will be for three years, with the first round of renewals to be staggered for 1, 2 or 3 years, to ensure continuity among the membership. Subsequently, all renewals of appointments will be for 3 years.

MEETINGS:

Meetings will be held at the call of the chair at least two times a year in person, with teleconference and videoconference formats as an option, with no interval between meetings of more than 8 months. Meetings will be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order; however, every effort will be made to reach decisions by consensus.

FUNCTIONS:

The Prenatal Screening QA Committee will strike working groups as needed. Members of such task forces will be selected from the Prenatal Screening QA Committee and related communities. The chair of a task force will be a member of the Prenatal Screening QA Committee.

CONFIDENTIALITY:

Every member will respect the confidentiality of matters brought before the Subcommittee or task force. All materials will be treated as confidential. It will be clearly stated when material is no longer confidential.

COMPENSATION:

Service as a Committee member is voluntary. Members will be reimbursed for expenses incurred to attend meetings as per the BORN Travel Reimbursement Policy and procedure.

FORMAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE:

The Terms of Reference shall be reviewed annually.