

Guidance for Critical Congenital Heart Defects (CCHD) Screening in the Special Care Nursery/Neonatal Intensive Care Unit



The following recommendations provide further specifications for implementation of CCHD screening in the NICU and do not contradict current guidance on the New Jersey Recommended Screening Algorithm.

Who to Screen:



- Infants admitted to the NICU are not exempt from CCHD screening including those:
 - with a prenatal suspicion or diagnosis of CHD
 - with an echocardiogram performed before the CCHD screening
 - being transferred at ≥ 24 hours after birth

When to Screen:

- Screen as early as possible at ≥ 24 hours
- At minimum, screen at 24-48 hours if medically appropriate



- If not screened at 24-48 hours, screen as soon as possible when medically appropriate
- Screen as soon as possible after weaning from respiratory support including:
 - Supplemental oxygen
 - o Room air CPAP

What to Report:

- Screening results (up to 3 attempts) entered into VIP (Vital Information Platform)
 - For all failed screens, results reported to NJ Birth Defects Registry (NJBDR)
- Transfers ≥ 24 hours



- At least 1 set of measurements entered into VIP and failing results reported to NJBDR
 - One set of measurements by sending facility is sufficient when additional attempts are not feasible
 - VIP record should be transferred to receiving hospital, where appropriate, so that additional screening results can be added to the record
- Transfers < 24 hours
 - While not included in the mandate, screening is recommended if feasible before transfer, especially if transferring out of state
 - If done, results entered into VIP and failing results reported to NJBDR
 - VIP record should be transferred to receiving hospital, where appropriate, so that additional screening results can be added to the record
- CCHD confirmed with echocardiogram
 - At least 1 set of measurements entered into VIP and failing results reported to NJBDR
 - One set of measurements is sufficient; no additional screening attempts needed