

NTQA

Program Overview

Instructions for Uploading NT/CRL Images to the NTQA Program



As part of an ongoing quality assurance process, the ***Nuchal Translucency Quality Assurance (NTQA) program*** provides mentorship and actionable feedback to sonographers through image reviews.

The image reviews are performed by the ***Clinical Content Specialist (CCS)*** Ultrasound from the Better Outcomes Registry & Network (BORN) and Prenatal Screening Ontario (PSO).

Decisions about sonographer registration for NT incorporation into ***Multiple Marker Screening (MMS)*** risk calculations (e.g. for eFTS) are determined by the Laboratories at North York General Hospital, Mount Sinai Hospital, and Credit Valley Hospital.

***Always de-identify your images to
protect patient privacy!***

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Steps for Uploading Images: The following steps outline the process for uploading images for the image review conducted by PSO/BORN.

Step 1: Meet FMF Standards

Ensure the Nuchal Translucency (NT) and Crown Rump Length (CRL) images meet the Fetal Medicine Foundation (FMF) standards.

Step 2: Submission Requirements

- Each set of images (CRL and matching NT) must be from the same patient.
- Provide 3 sets of images from different cases are required to complete an audit.
- Images must be your own work, taken within the last 3 months.
- Each image must be clear and easily interpreted. Do not use an image on a paper printout.
- Image parameters, such as the focus marker, should be visible on the image.
- Label each image accordingly (e.g. NT # 1, CRL # 1)

Step 3: Deidentify Images

You must follow the following steps to appropriately deidentify the image:

A. Take a screenshot of the image, adjusting the box to crop out the patient name and date of birth.

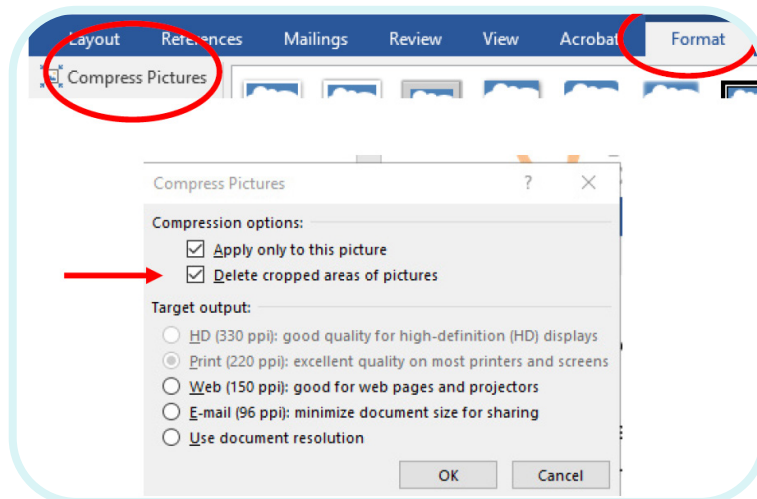
B. Save each cropped image with the appropriate label.

Step 4: Save Images

Take a new screenshot of each of the saved images and save them with appropriate labels.

OR

If you're using Microsoft Word, select the cropped picture. Go to the Format tab, click Compress Pictures, and ensure the Delete cropped areas of pictures option is selected.



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The patient's name and date of birth must be removed from 4. each image. Cropping or whiting out personal health information from an image is not sufficient. Images containing patient identifiers will not be accepted and would likely be considered a breach of personal health information (PHI) by your organization. The email will be deleted, and the sonographer will be required to resubmit the images in the appropriate format.

Alternatively, in Word, go to File > Options > Advanced, and under Image Size and Quality, select the Discard editing data check box.

This step ensures that the cropped portions are permanently removed from the image.

Step 5: Submit Images

Send the images by email to the CCS Ultrasound. The images may be inserted into the body of the email or sent as attachments.

Step 6: Store Report

The image audit report will be stored in a secure folder to comply with PHI guidelines. A copy of the report will be sent to the sonographer.

Sample of acceptable images

