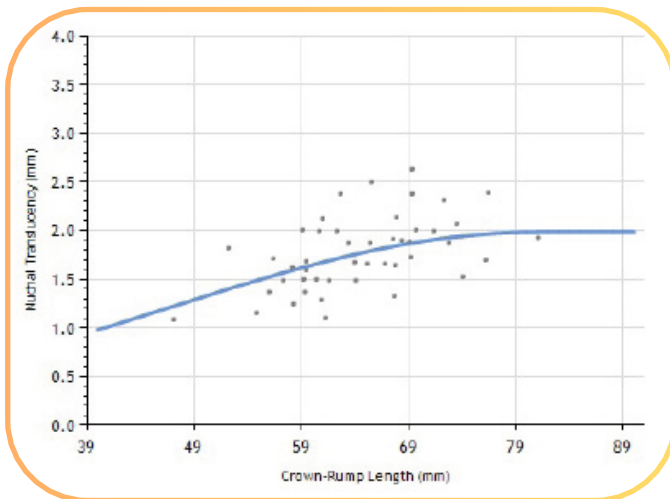


Wide Spread

Spread refers to how closely the NT/CRL data points hug the Fetal Medicine Foundation (FMF-UK) reference curve. **A wide spread means that the your data points are very far from the FMF curve, and show more variation than expected in a normal population.**

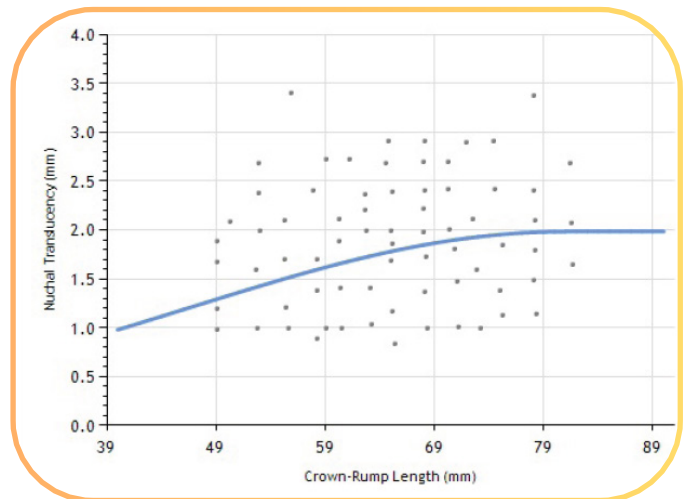
When the sonographer-specific NT performance curve shows a wide spread, it indicates that the operator may be **INCONSISTENTLY MEASURING THE NT AND/OR CRL** or **SHARING THEIR NT ID NUMBER**.

Normal Spread



The data points cluster around the FMF curve, with some natural variation, as expected in a normal population.

Wide Spread



The data points are far from the FMF reference curve, and show too much variation in NT measurements.

➔ Why does it matter?

A wide spread can lead to inconsistent and inaccurate prenatal screening results.

➔ What to do about it?

The next step is to evaluate your scanning practice to determine WHY your data show a wide spread.

Wide Spread

Common reasons for a wide spread

- **Sharing NT Identification Numbers**

When multiple sonographers submit NT and CRL data under the same NT ID number, the operators' different scanning habits are shown together on the NT performance curve. This often appears as a wide spread.

- **Lower quality CRL and NT images/measurements**

Inconsistent CRL and NT measurements may be a result of lower-quality CRL and NT measurements. Please review the imaging resources on this page to ensure that your NT and CRL images are of the highest possible quality.

- **Errors in recording measurements**

Always record the largest NT measurement from an image that meets the FMF image criteria. The best CRL measurement, or the average of several satisfactory CRL measurements, should be recorded on the requisition.

DO NOT SHARE YOUR NT ID NUMBER

NT ID number sharing reduces the quality of our personalized NT performance distributions and decreases the accuracy of our patients' prenatal screening tests.

→ Resources & recommendations

- Review the FMF Imaging Protocol and re-watch the NT Measurement sections of the [FMF 11-13 weeks scan course](#).
- This video by the [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#) provides excellent tips for consistently obtaining high-quality NT and CRL images.
- If you have colleagues who need to register for their own Ontario NT IDs, refer them to the NT Registration page on the PSO website, and review PSO's guide on how to support your colleagues' training in NT ultrasound.

→ Summary and next steps



Step 1: Assess

Critically analyze your own NT and CRL images, to find reasons for your wide spread. Seeking feedback from colleagues may also be helpful.



Step 2: Review & implement

Review the Resources and Recommendations above, and implement changes to your NT and CRL scanning to correct errors contributing to a wide spread.



Step 3: Monitor

In six months, log in to your BORN account to view your NT performance curve, and monitor improvement in your spread.