



**Ohio Department of Health, Bureau of Maternal, Child and Family Health**  
**Safe Sleep Reporting Frequently Asked Questions**

**Question: What happens when a hospital transfers an infant to the Child Protective Services or an adoption agency?**

When an infant is discharged to Child Protective Services or an adoption agency, the screening should be completed with the agency representative picking up the baby.

**Question: Does my hospital still need to submit a form each year providing the annual infant safe sleep screening data, including income, ethnicity, and race?**

Hospitals with access to IPHIS do not need to submit an annual form with infant safe sleep aggregate data because the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) will extract this information directly from IPHIS. The previous calendar year data must be submitted in IPHIS by the first Monday in February. Hospitals that do not have access to IPHIS need to submit an [Annual Aggregate Safe Sleep Reporting Form](#) by the first Monday in February of each year.

**Question: What are the infant safe sleep requirements for Critical Access Hospitals?**

Critical Access Hospitals are required to screen for safe sleep but they are not required to provide a crib or resource. If a Critical Access Hospital transfers an infant to a non-Critical Access Hospital, then the Critical Access Hospitals should indicate that the infant was transferred and the receiving hospital should screen and provide a crib or resource (if needed) when the infant is discharged.

**Question: How long are hospitals required to hold onto the individual safe sleep screening forms from 2016?**

Records should be retained until February of the following year. For example, calendar year 2016 records must be maintained until February 2017. Beyond February of the following year, hospitals should follow their facility record retention policy.

**Question: For babies transferred to a NICU, should hospitals wait to complete the safe sleep tab until baby is discharged, or should they select “transferred”? If the infant spends months in the NICU; when should they be screened?**

If the NICU is considered to be owned by (or part of) the delivering hospital, then the whole form should be left blank up until the point the infant is discharged since screening should happen prior to discharge. If the NICU is not owned by the delivering hospital and is part of a separate hospital system, then “Transferred” should be selected before the infant is transferred from the birthing hospital to the separate system’s NICU. “Transferred” should only be selected if the infant is transferred outside of the current hospital system. Infants should when be screened once they are about to be discharged.

**Question: Do we have to use the exact form that was given to our birth certificate clerks at the IPHIS Enhancement Training Seminar?**

No, the form is a template that we’re providing in case it is helpful. You can edit the form if you would like; the important thing is to make sure that whoever is completing the screening is capturing all the information that needs to be submitted into the IPHIS Crib Tab.



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**Question: If an infant is transferred to another hospital after we screened for safe sleep and learned that a crib is needed, what should we do?**

Screening should occur prior to an infant's discharge; the hospital that ultimately discharges the infant is responsible for screening and providing any needed crib/referral. In this situation, the hospital that initially screened prior to transferring would report that the infant was transferred and the hospital that ultimately discharged the infant would complete the screening and provide a crib/referral.

**What are the safe sleep screening and referral requirements for non-Ohio residents?**

ORC 3701.67 does not require hospitals and birthing centers to screen and refer non-Ohio residents; facilities decide whether to screen non-Ohio residents. However, they can choose to screen them and must select "Yes" to the first question in the IPHIS "Crib" tab in order to complete the rest of the tab. ODH will sort out non-Ohio resident data once the data is received.

**What are the screening requirements for home births?**

ORC 3701.67 does not apply to home births.