

# A NATural Solution: Developing a Family Medicine Inpatient Newborn Assessment Team in a Community Academic Hospital

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## GOALS

- ✓ Understand and apply principles of co-design between family physicians and other specialists in healthcare settings
- ✓ Understand the processes and resources required to develop a sustainable model for family physician participation in hospital care

## PROCESS

### Identifying an Area of Need

In response to increasing pressures on acute paediatric services at Trillium Health Partners, a novel family medicine-led Newborn Assessment Team (NAT) was created.



### Which Patient Population At Credit Valley Hospital?

- ✓ Newborn patients admitted to the Mother-Baby unit
- X Newborns admitted to the NICU
- X Newborns under the care of Midwives



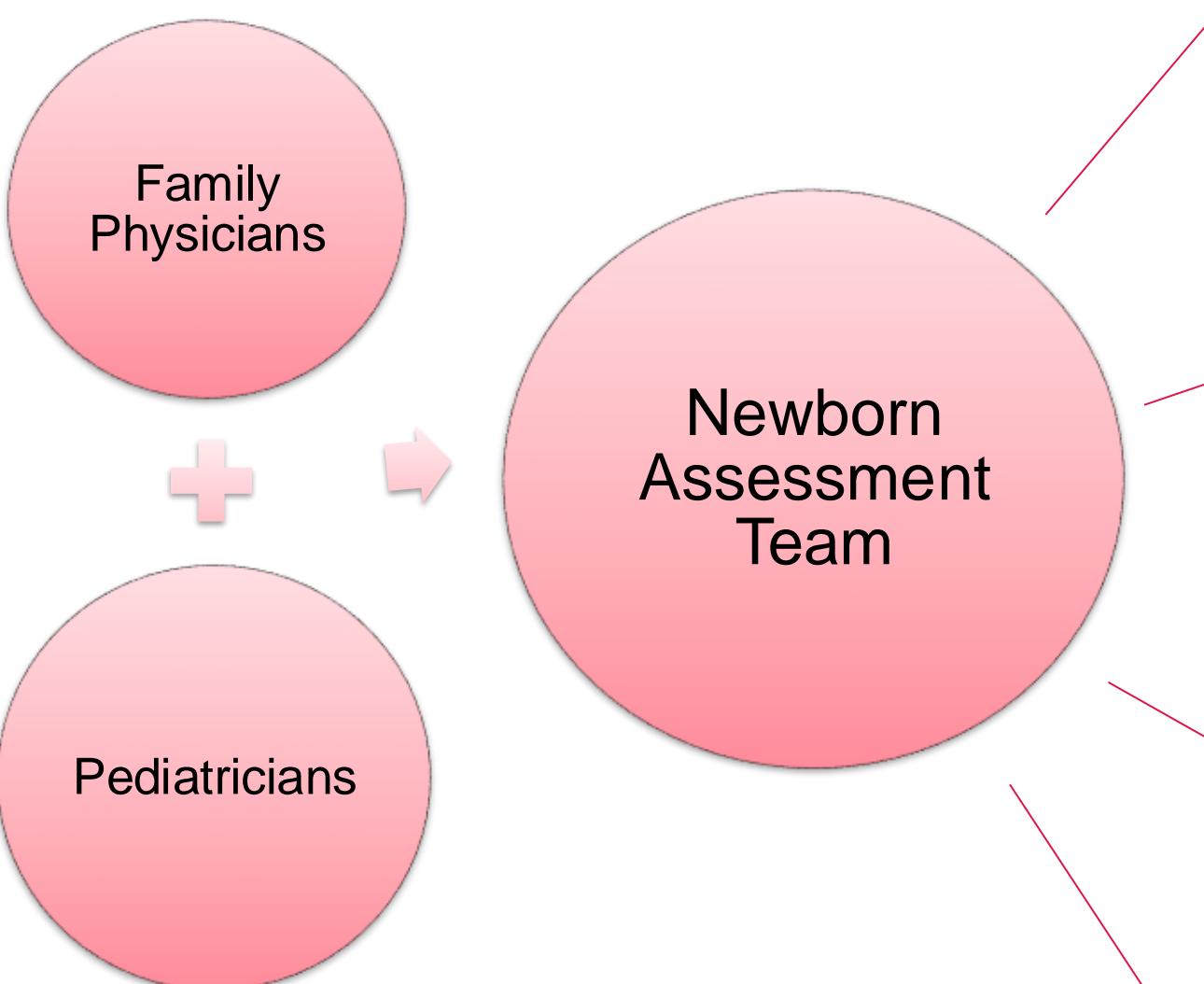
### Outlining the Role

NAT physicians to:

- ✓ Provide routine care to the newborns
- ✓ Document their assessments in the patient's electronic health record
- ✓ Discharge the patients to their primary care providers
- ✓ Identify and consult Paediatrics for cases requiring more specialized intervention

## OUTCOME

Family physicians and paediatricians co-designed the NAT model, to create a **sustainable** and **valuable** model



Newborns are seen in discrete blocks of time by the NAT and are then either discharged or assigned to the paediatrics team, allowing family physicians to participate in the NAT and return to their family practice offices within the same day.

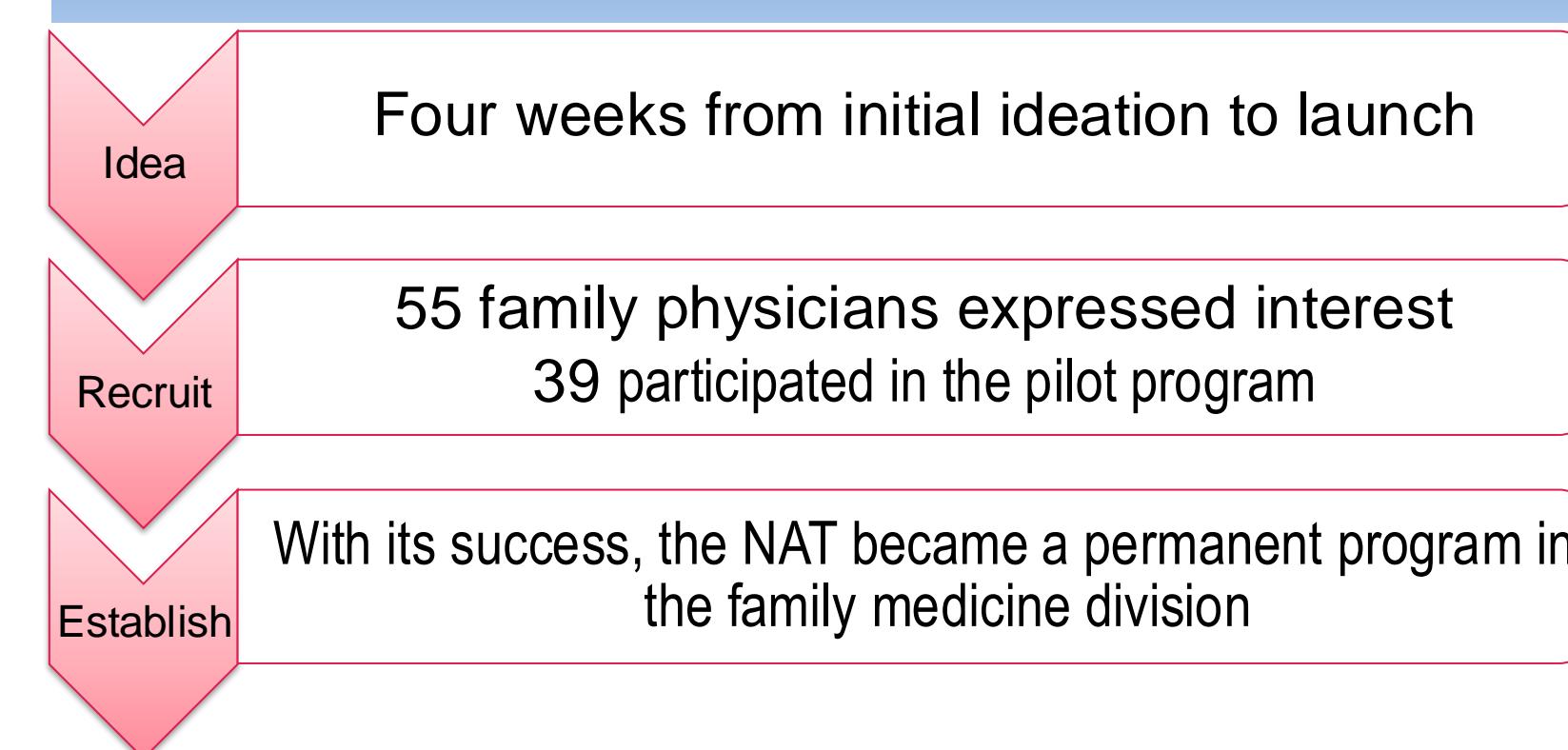
A Family Physician-Lead was appointed to support the program and ensure the program's ongoing evolution.

Pediatricians lead educational events and provide mentorship and support to the physicians on the team.

To ensure consistent coverage, a first and second MD model was set up for scheduling. The second MD serves as a backup in the event of an influx of patients or illness.

## CONCLUSION

During the initial two week recruitment period 55 family physicians expressed interest in the team. Due to the timely need for the NAT, it was launched in less than four weeks from initial ideation with 39 family physicians on roster. A successful model was co-designed between two specialties after identifying an area of need.



## FUTURE PLANS

The program has been successfully in operation for over a year now. Plans are currently underway for it to expand as Mississauga Hospital's program moves to Credit Valley Hospital. This will mean an increase of deliveries from 5000 to 8000 at Credit Valley Hospital, per year. This integration will allow for consistent high quality of care and a more effective model of care as THP continues to deliver the most babies of any hospital in Canada.

We gratefully acknowledge the Credit Valley Family Medicine leadership team, Newborn Assessment Team physicians and our CVH Pediatrician colleagues.