

NEWBORN SCREENING

January 2001

Year 5 No.3

Official Publication of the Philippine Newborn Screening Program

NBS IMPLEMENTS TWO SCREENING PACKAGES

Beginning January 2001, the Philippine Newborn Screening Program offered two screening packages to patients. Parents can now choose either Package A, which includes tests for 5 disorders: congenital hypothyroidism (CH), congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), galactosemia (GAL), phenylketonuria (PKU), and glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency for P550.00 or Package B, which includes tests for CH and CAH only for P310.00.

This development was the result of a consultative meeting with the Department of Health (DOH) and representatives from private and public sectors held at the DOH Office last December 13, 2000.

The move was in line with the goal of nationwide implementation of newborn screening. The introduction of a second and more affordable package was initiated so that more patients will be able to avail of newborn screening and to save more Filipino babies from mental retardation and death.

TEN HOSPITALS GARNERED TOP NBS PERFORMANCE

Ten participating hospitals with top performance rankings were recognized during the annual Hospital Coordinators' Meeting held at the Quezon City Sports Club on December 14, 2000.

The top ten hospitals were selected by getting the number of babies screened against the total number of deliveries for the year. To be chosen, hospitals should have a total screening percentage for the whole year of eighty percent (80%) and above and they should not have a screening percentage of less than forty percent (40%) for a month.

Los Baños Doctors topped the list with a ninety-seven percent (97%) performance rating. Followed by Metropolitan Hospital and Olivarez General Hospital with eighty-nine percent (89%).

In third place are The Medical City and Mary Mediatrix Hospital with eighty-six percent (86%). Hospital of the Infant Jesus and Cardinal Santos Medical Center tied for fourth place with the performance ranking of eighty-five percent (85%).

NBS TOP 10 PERFORMING HOSPITALS

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|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Los Baños Doctors Hospital | 97% |
| 2. Metropolitan Hospital | 89% |
| 3. Olivarez General Hospital | 89% |
| 4. Mary Mediatrix Hospital | 86% |
| 5. The Medical City | 86% |
| 6. Cardinal Santos Med. Cntr. | 85% |
| 7. Hospital of the Infant Jesus | 85% |
| 8. Central Luzon Doctor's Hsp. | 84% |
| 9. Chinese General Hospital | 84% |
| 10. St. Lukes Medical Center | 81% |

In fifth place are Chinese General Hospital and Central Luzon Doctor's Hospital with eighty-four percent (84%). Completing the list of ten hospitals is St. Lukes Medical Center with a performance rating of eighty-one percent (81%).

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In Focus:

OLIVAREZ GENERAL HOSPITAL

Towards the goal of saving babies from mental retardation and death

Olivarez General Hospital emerged as the second top performing hospital during the awarding of the top ten performing hospitals held at the Newborn Screening Coordinators' Meeting on December 14, 2000.

Since its membership in November 1999, Olivarez General Hospital has consistently shown high screening percentages. In an interview conducted last January 9, 2001, Dr. Neal Orteza, hospital administrator and NBS hospital coordinator of Olivarez General Hospital, stated that the success of newborn screening in his hospital can be attributed to three factors.

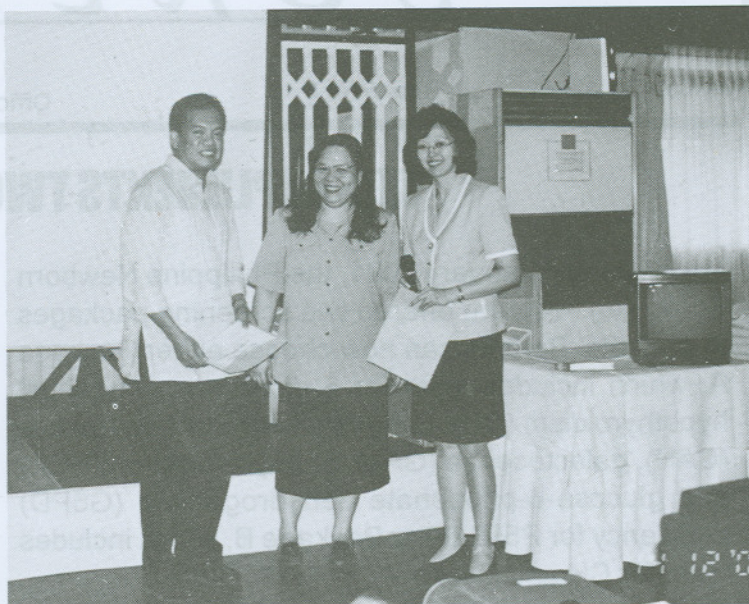
First, because they have incorporated the procedure into the regular delivery package given to patients to ensure that all babies will be screened. Dr. Orteza decided that they would not give out consent forms to parents. "Furnishing consent forms will just give parents an option not to have their babies screened. Since we strongly believe that the program should be successfully implemented, we decided to ensure that all babies are screened by incorporating newborn screening into the hospitals routine procedure," he stated.

He resolved that the screening fee be added in the financial statement of the patients. "*Sinasama na naming yung bill sa package na babayaran ng mga pasyente.* If questions about the fee arise, we explain the procedure done and the importance of newborn screening".

"*Ang hindi lang naming na-screen ay yung walk-in indigent patients namin.* We don't pressure them to have their babies screened when we know that they can't afford it," Dr. Orteza elaborated.

Second, newborn screening implementation is successful in Olivarez General Hospital because it is a family-owned hospital and not a corporation. There is less bureaucracy and decisions coming from him are readily implemented and practised.

Lastly, it is because the administrators of the hospital are personally supportive of the program. Being both pediatricians, they know the importance and are staunch advocates of its implementation. " We both took our residency in New York, where newborn screening was already done routinely. We handled a lot of hypothyroid cases and due to newborn screening we were able to intervene early and avoid complications. So, when we returned here to run the hospital and the program was just starting, we readily adopted it and made sure that all babies born in the hospital will be screened " explained Dr. Orteza.



Dr. Neil Orteza (left) accepts a certificate for Olivarez General Hospital, which placed second top NBS participating hospital. Giving the award is Dr. Carmencita Padilla (right) and assisting her is Mrs. Carol Bandahala (center), DOH representative.

Through the efforts of Dr. Orteza and the rest of the newborn screening team of Olivarez General Hospital, more Filipino babies have been saved from mental retardation and early death.

Study Update

Patients Screened	147,057	
Confirmed Positive		
CH	34	1:4,325
CAH	16	1:9,191
GAL	2	1:73,528
Classical Galactosemia	1	1:147,057
Galactokinase Deficiency	1	1:147,057
PKU	3	1:49,019
Atypical PKU	1	1:147,057
BH4 Deficient	1	1:147,057
PBH	1	1:147,057
TOTAL	55	1:2,674
G6PD Screening		
Total Screened	72,746	
Total Confirmed	1,052	1:69



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