

Congratulations to the recipients of the award for Outstanding Newborn Screening Facilities, Exemplary Newborn Screening Facilities and NBS Special Awards for program Advocates!

newborn screening

Official Publication of the Newborn Screening Reference Center
National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila

Volume 9 | Number 4

October-December 2005

2nd NBS lab up for launching

West Visayas State U Med Center gets a nod



The NSC-Visayas located at the West Visayas State University Medical Center, the second Newborn Screening Center in the country.

The Department of Health, through the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services, reviewed the applications for the Newborn Screening Center (NSC) for the Visayas and Mindanao.

WVSUMC topped the five applicants in the bid for the next Newborn Screening Center under the National Comprehensive Newborn Screening Program. The accreditation of the WVSUMC is scheduled in early 2006. This is pursuant to Republic Act 9288 or the Newborn Screening Act of 2004, which states that no NSC shall be allowed to operate unless it has been duly accredited by DOH based on the standards and procedural guidelines approved by the Advisory Committee on Newborn Screening.

The accreditation team will be chaired by Dr. Thomas Maramba (pathologist), Dr. Bradford Therrell (Executive Director, US Newborn Screening and Genetics Resource Center), representatives from the Department of Health and National Institutes of Health. Once accredited, the WVSUMC will house NSC-Visayas and will be responsible for the processing of samples from the Visayas and Mindanao.#

NSC-NIH BULLETIN

1. Notice to All Hospitals and Birthing Facilities:

Compliance with Republic Act No. 9288 (Newborn Screening Act of 2004) and pursuant to Rules and Regulations of Implementing RA 9288:

Sec. 2 ...The National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System shall ensure that every baby born in the Philippines is offered the opportunity to undergo newborn screening and, thus, be spared from heritable conditions that can lead to mental retardation and death, if undetected and untreated.

Sec. 21-a ALL HOSPITALS, BIRTHING FACILITIES, RURAL HEALTH UNITS, HEALTH CENTERS AND OTHER COLLECTING UNITS throughout the country shall have NBS Specimen Collection kits at all times.

Sec. 24 The DOH, through the Bureau of Health Facilities and Services (BHFS), shall include, among others, the provision of NBS services in the licensing requirements for hospitals and birthing facilities.

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Outstanding and excellent Newborn Screening Facilities conferred

To Secretary Francisco T. Duque III, newborn screening is one way of giving our children a fair chance to harness their full potential by giving them the unique window towards a full and healthy life. "Imagine, if we can grasp those moments where early diagnosis of genetic disorders is vital, when their catastrophic consequences can still be averted. Imagine if we can stop the waste of human potential, to chart their disability. Imagine the future we can create for them. Today we are in fact building towards that future. We have made huge strides in about just a decade (of NBS in the country)."

Secretary Duque also honored the awardees for their commitment to the development of our infants which "has given these children a good start in life. Through Your efforts, they now face positive prospects in life."

Awardees for Outstanding Newborn Screening Facilities

Out of the over 630 health facilities offering newborn screening all over the country to date, the following 50 Newborn Screening Facilities or NSF's were being recognized as "Outstanding Newborn Screening Facilities" for their exemplary performance in newborn screening for the past year (August-December 2004 and January-July

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Outstanding and excellent NSF's conferred...(from page 1)

2005). They were able to screen 70% and above of the total number of babies born in their health facilities.

- Private Tertiary Hospital (31)
- Batangas Health Care Hospital (Jesus of Nazareth)
- Calamba Doctors Hospital
- Calamba Medical Center
- Lipa Medix Medical Center
- Manila East Medical Center
- Mary Mediatrix Medical Center
- Metro South Medical Center
- N. L. Villa Memorial Medical Center
- Saint Patrick's Hospital Medical Center
- Q.C. St. Agnes General Hospital, Inc.
- San Juan de Dios Hospital
- St Luke's Medical Center
- The Medical City
- Ago General Hospital
- Alabang Medical Clinic
- Asian Hospital and Medical Center
- Capitol Medical Center
- Cardinal Santos Medical Center
- Chinese General Hospital
- Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center Foundation Phils
- Dr. Jesus C. Delgado Memorial Hospital
- Dr. Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center
- Hospital of the Infant Jesus
- Las Pinas City Medical Center, Inc.
- Manila Doctors Hospital
- Mary Johnston Hospital, Inc.
- Medical Center Paranaque
- Metropolitan Hospital
- Perpetual Help Medical Center-Las Piñas
- St. Paul's Hospital -Iloilo
- Cagayan de Oro Medical Center, Inc.

- Private Secondary Hospital (10)
- Isaac & Catalina Multi-Specialty Center
- Evangelista Medical Specialty Hospital
- Family Care Hospital
- Los Banos Doctors Hospital, Inc.
- Molino Doctors Hospital
- San Pedro Doctors Hospital
- St. John The Baptist Medical Center, Inc.
- Olivarez General Hospital
- Bethel Baptist Hospital, Inc
- Midsayap Community Doctors Hospital

- Private Primary Hospital (1)
- Celis Maternity Clinic

- Private Lying-in Clinic (1)
- Cattleya Well Family Midwife Clinic

- Local Government Unit Hospital (5)
- Bago City Hospital
- Cadiz District Hospital
- Don Salvador Benedicto Memorial District Hospital
- Dr. Jose C. Locsin Memorial Provincial Hospital
- Bayawan District Hospital

- Special Government Hospital (1)
- UPLB Health Services

- DOH Retained Hospital (1)
- Philippine Children's Medical Center

Awardees for Exemplary Performance

The following 27 Newborn Screening Facilities were recognized as "Exemplary Newborn Screening Facilities" for their consistent outstanding performance in newborn screening for the past three years (from August 2002 to July 2005).

- Private Tertiary Hospital (17)
- Mary Mediatrix Medical Center
- Saint Patrick's Hospital Medical Center
- Ago General Hospital
- St. Paul's Hospital, Iloilo City
- Asian Hospital and Medical Center
- Capitol Medical Center
- Cardinal Santos Medical Center
- Chinese General Hospital
- Dr. Fe Del Mundo Memorial Medical Center
- Dr. Victor R. Potenciano Memorial Hospital
- Hospital of the Infant Jesus
- Manila Doctor's Hospital
- Mary Johnston Hospital, Inc.
- Medical Center Paranaque
- Metropolitan Hospital
- St. Luke's Medical Center
- The Medical City

- Private Secondary Hospital (6)
- Evangelista Medical Specialty Hospital
- Family Care Hospital
- Los Baños Doctors Hospital, Inc.
- Bethel Baptist Hospital, Inc,
- Midsayap Community Doctors Hospital
- Olivarez General Hospital

- Private Lying-in Clinic (1)
- Cattleya Well Family Midwife Clinic

- Local Government Unit Hospital (1)
- Bayawan District Hospital

- Special Government Hospital (1)
- UPLB Health Service

- DOH Retained Hospital (1)
- Philippine Children's Medical Center

SPECIAL AWARDS

The following were recognized for varied role in helping the government—directly and indirectly—improve the health of the Filipino people through their different contribution in the field of Newborn Screening advocacy, education, implementation, and institutionalization of the program:

- City Government of Tanjay
- Provincial Government of Negros Occidental Center for Health Development-Region 6 (Western Visayas)
- Center for Health Development-National Capital Region (NCR)
- Tanjay Rural Health Unit II
- Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc.
- PGH Newborn Screening Nurses' Core Group
- Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines
- Philippine Society of Pediatric Metabolism and Endocrinology, Inc.
- Aster Lynn D. Sur, RDN, RN
- Emmalita M. Mañalac, MD
- Caridad M. Santos, MD
- Rowena A. Pua, MD
- Col. Estelita Galutira
- Jocelyn F. Olvido, MD, MPH
- Jocelyn D. Go, MD
- Carmelita F. Domingo, MD
- Barrameda and Cueto Families



2005 Year-End Updates

When the Newborn Screening Reference Center started full operations in 2005, we only had one goal—to increase the number of newborns screened in the Philippines. NBS has been in the country for nearly a decade when Republic Act No. 9288 or the Newborn Screening Act of 2004 took effect. Yet despite these developments, the coverage remained low—only about 6% of the newborn population were screened in 2004 and only 366 (21%) of the 1,760 health facilities nationwide offered NBS services.

As an office providing technical support to the Department of Health, we took it as a challenge to help DOH push the numbers higher by increasing newborn screening awareness among the health professionals and the public.

At the close of the year, we made marked achievements in one area: the number of health facilities offering newborn screening more than doubled in 12 months at 760. NSRC achieved this feat in partnership with DOH and its regional offices, as well as other agencies and organizations.—But then again, we are yet to make a dent in the coverage of babies screened: only about 8.5% of the newborn population was screened in 2005.

With the inclusion of NBS services in the DOH licensing requirements for health facilities starting 2006, all hospitals and birthing facilities will, therefore, inevitably offer newborn screening. The new challenge for DOH—and therefore, NSRC—is to push the existing Newborn Screening Facilities to screen all the newborns delivered in their facility and to create a demand for newborn screening services by creating greater public awareness.

We are continually inspired by many NBS advocates—organizations, local governments and individuals—whose exemplary and unwavering commitment to advocate newborn screening among their fellow Filipinos contribute to improving the health of the Filipino children. We enjoin the rest to rise up and commit to the challenge of saving more than 33,000 babies from mental retardation annually. We look forward to the day when all our health practitioners, health administrators, policymakers and parents will become newborn screening advocates. This is our contribution to the future generation.#

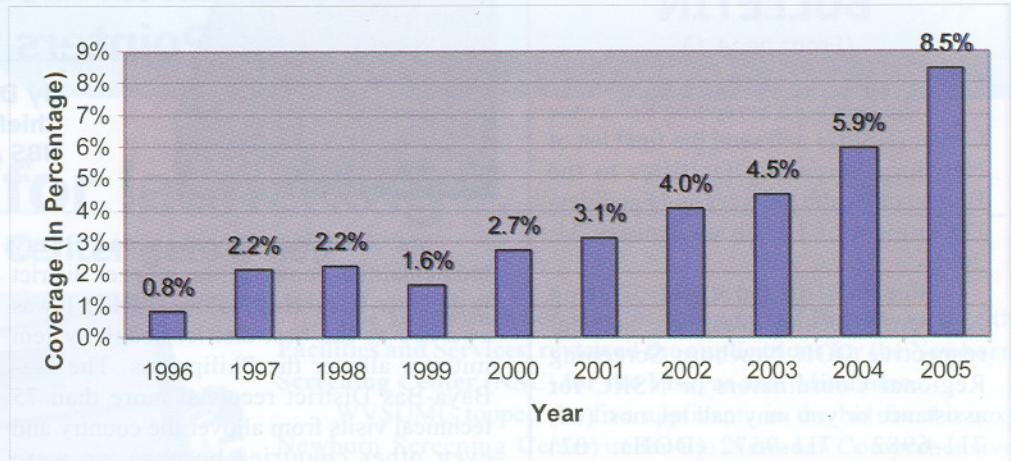


Fig. 1. Annual Coverage of Newborns Screened versus Live Birth Population from 1996-2005*

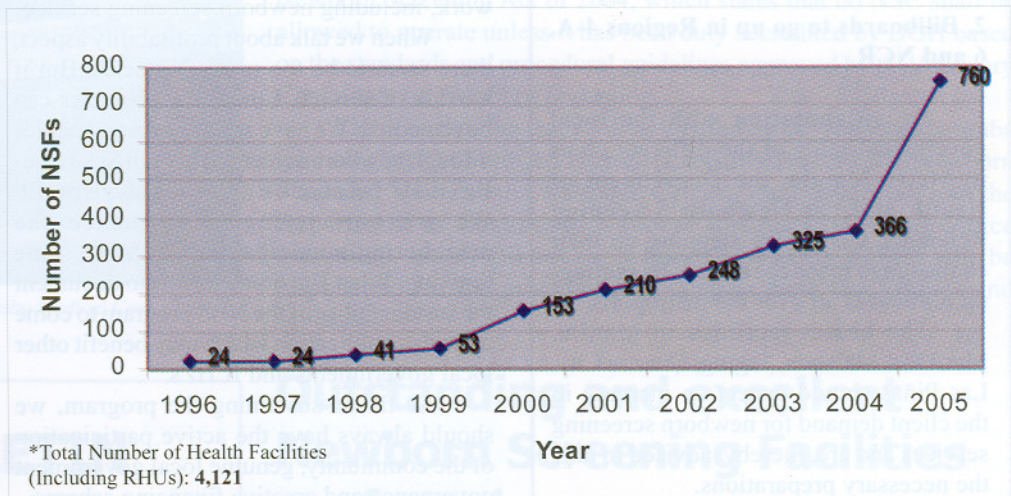


Fig. 2. Number of Newborn Screening Facilities Per Year

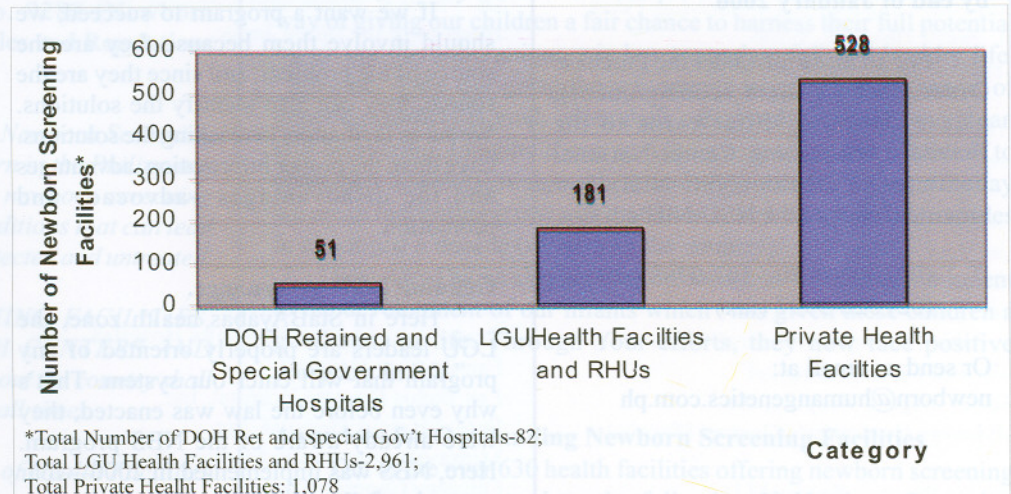


Fig. 3. Number of Health Facilities per Category

NSC-National Institutes of Health BULLETIN

(From page 1)



Sta. Catalina-Bayawan-Basay Inter-Local Health Zone: Pointers to sustaining NBS

By **DR. FIDENCIO AURELIA**
Chief of Hospital, Bayawan District Hospital
NBS Advocate

The Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC) will send the final list of Newborn Screening facilities to the Bureau of Health Services and Facilities-Department of Health on January 31, 2006.

For facilities not yet offering Newborn Screening, please contact your respective DOH Newborn Screening Regional Coordinators or NSRC for assistance or you may call tel. nos. (02) 711-6982 / 711-9572 (DOH), (02) 5224396 (NSRC) or visit www.nsrc-nih.org.ph for further details.

2. Billboards to go up in Regions 4-A, 6 and NCR

In collaboration with the local government units of the different cities in Metro Manila, the Department of Health and the Newborn Screening Reference Center are stepping up their campaign to reach the masses by putting-up billboards all over the metropolis.

The health facilities in Manila, Marikina, Malabon, Taguig, Quezon City, Las Piñas should expect an increase in the client demand for newborn screening services and are, thereby, advised to take the necessary preparations.

3. All NSCs must shift to P.O. system by end of January 2006

For all those not under the Purchase Order (P.O.) system (consignment), please return all filter cards to the Newborn Screening Center-National Institutes of Health (NSC-NIH). For inquiries, contact the NSC-NIH at:

(02) 307-0780 / 307-0788 (tel)
(02) 526-9997 (fax)

Or send an email at:
newborn@humangenetics.com.ph

Sta. Catalina, Bayawan and Basay municipalities comprise the pioneer district in the Inter-Local Health Zone (ILHZ). It was awarded as the best district health system initiator all over the Philippines. The Sta-Baya-Bas District received more than 75 technical visits from all over the country and even other countries because we were recognized as the top ILHZ—making the devolution of health care service delivery work, including newborn screening service.

When we talk about profitability aspect, there seem to be too many obstacles. But if we talk of service, I think the obstacles can be remedied. We have served so many babies through newborn screening here in Sta-Baya-Bas ILHZ because we don't talk about profit. We are now trying to influence the neighboring municipalities with the same thinking. What I'm doing now is to document the sustainability of the NBS program to come up with a publication which may benefit other local governments and ILHZs.

As far as sustaining the program, we should always have the active participation of the community, genuine local government governance and creative financing scheme.

Active participation of the community.

If we want a program to succeed, we should involve them because they are the source of the problem; and since they are the source, they can also identify the solutions. We act as facilitators in reaching the solutions. Give them the proper information, advantages and the disadvantages—advocacy and promotion.

Genuine LGU governance.

Here in StaBayabas health zone, the LGU leaders are properly oriented of any program that will enter our system. That's why even before the law was enacted, they were already aware of the NBS program. Here, NBS was implemented in 2000—four years ahead. We are not just able to convince

the LGUs, we have also expanded to the provincial level. We have convinced the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to create an ordinance on the NBS to be implemented in all health facilities. Bayawan District Hospital, as initiator, now acts as the NBS trainer/resource for the province with funding from the community health funds.

Creative financing.

Financing is the most important in ensuring sustainability of a program or project. In the financing aspect, wherever we go, the usual answer is we cannot afford. I say, affordability depends on how you will treat your expenditures. If you spend for the future of a baby—and this is for a lifetime—you invest only P550-P600 now and you are protecting the baby until adulthood and old age.#

The Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC) has taken over the management and publication of this newsletter from the Institute of Human Genetics (IHG), National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Philippine Newborn Screening Program (PNSP). This is in line with NSRC's role in providing resource and information in the area of newborn screening to benefit the public health community, consumers and government officials of the country.

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