

newborn screening

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RHU-Dumalag: The Epitome of a Government Newborn Screening Facility

The Rural Health Unit (RHU)-Dumalag is the sole awardee in this year's NBS Achievers Award for having screened 78-85% of its total live births for 2007 and 2008.

The Profile

Dumalag is a 4th class municipality 35 kilometers away from Roxas City, Capiz. It is composed of 19 barangays with farming, fishing, and crop vending as sources of income.

Located in the slopes of mountains and hills, Dumalag is a typical small town. Because of good governance, however, the town is now considered one of the centers of the province of Capiz. The closely-knit relations among its residents is one of the factors contributing to the successful implementation of the newborn screening program in the locality.

RHU-Dumalag became a Newborn Screening Facility in 2007. Since this time, it has been actively implementing NBS. By the end of 2007, 78% of its live births were screened. In 2008, the Unit posted an even higher screening performance of 86%. Part of this impressive achievement was an increased number of walk-ins.

Sustained and massive advocacy

According to its NBS Coordinator Dr. Ana Mae Belasoto, one of the strategies initiated by the RHU is massive information dissemination on newborn screening during pre-marriage counseling, pre-natal visits, meetings and barangay assemblies. Since the RHU has its own risograph machine, a big volume of NBS flyers and pamphlets were reproduced and distributed.

This strategy proved to be effective that eventually, more parents



RHU Dumalag NBS Coordinator Dr. Belasoto (front row, center) and staff members

were convinced to have their babies screened. Some parents and grandparents who could not afford the service were allowed to pay on a later date with their respective midwives as guarantors and collectors. For others, the "hulog-hulog" or installment payment scheme was adopted. A portion of the fee was paid to the midwife during prenatal visits until the full P600 was paid before their time of delivery. *Hilots* were also made aware of the importance of NBS. They helped motivate mothers to submit their babies to NBS. The RHU also accepted babies referred by other municipalities.

Working towards Philhealth universal coverage

RHU Dumalag conducted a massive campaign to all PHIC members who delivered in its facility. No additional persuasion was needed because of the Newborn Care Package.

Availment of NCP Package increased as universal coverage of Philhealth among the people of Dumalag was sponsored by Congressman Fredenil H. Castro of the 2nd District of Capiz, together with the Dumalag Local Government Unit headed.

The Team Approach

RHU Dumalag is composed of committed and dedicated personnel. Using the Team Approach, its lone Medical Technologist works closely with Rural Health Midwives (RHMs). The medical technologist informs the RHMs if newborn screening is not yet performed within 48 hours. RHMs then seek the help of Barangay Health Workers and find ways and means to have all newborns undergo newborn screening.

Every week, RHU-Dumalag con-

(Continued on page 8)

Midwives Take an Active Role in Newborn Screening

Midwives deliver approximately 60% of babies born in the Philippines. To reach the 2010 national target of 85% of over 1.6 million Filipino babies born annually, they are being tapped to assist and support the NBS program implementation at the grassroots' level.

The midwives organizations, composed of the Association of Philippine Schools of Midwifery (APSOM), Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP), Midwives Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. (MFPI), Philippine League of Government and Private Midwives, Inc. (PLGPMI) and Well Family Midwife Clinics Partnership Foundation, Inc. (WFPI), had several meetings to come up with strategies aimed at hitting the newborn screening target.

In a meeting last August 19, 2009 at the Conference Room of the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control, Department of Health (DOH), the groups agreed to divide among them the task of training midwives nationwide. MFPI will cover the training for the National Capitol Region, PLGPMI will take the 10 regions, namely Regions 1, 2, 4b, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, CAR & CARAGA while

IMAP will be responsible for 6 regions, namely: Regions 3, 4A, 5, 6, 12, and ARMM.

It was further resolved that the content of the training for midwives shall be standardized. This will be done through a trainers training to be conducted by the Department of Health and the Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC) on November 12-13, 2009. The organizations were expected to present their strategies on implementation and list of participants to DOH by August 24, 2009. **(R Suarez)**



The program implementers and midwives organizations in the meeting held at DOH

APSOM incorporates Newborn Screening in Orientations and Trainings

The Association of Philippine Schools of Midwifery incorporates lectures on Newborn Screening in its Innovation in Classroom and Clinical Teaching Trainings. The said incorporation is part of APSOM's commitment to push forward the goal of saving all babies delivered in both private and public facilities from the dangers of congenital metabolic diseases.

Date	Venue
September 3-5, 2009	Regions 9, 10, 11, 12, and CARAGA
October 12-14, 2009	Regions 4, 5, and NCR
November 12-14	Regions 6, 7, and 8
December 3-5, 2009	Regions 1, 2, 3, and CAR



IMAP partners with Newborn Screening Program Implementers

The Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP), Inc. has been very active in supporting and advocating a sustainable newborn screening program in the country. IMAP is one with the Department of Health in its goal to save the lives of newborns and prevent mental retardation and death.

IMAP has been in collaboration with the Newborn Screening Reference Center in its campaign for a wider availability of newborn screening in the country. It also takes part in giving mothers informed choices and opportunities to avail of NBS for their newborns.

This year, IMAP has included skills training to ensure that midwives are capable of providing the newborn screening test. Through the said orientation, midwives would be able to inform and educate future mothers on the importance of the test.

Last March 6, 2009, IMAP held a half-day orientation on Newborn Screening for its Board of Trustees and selected

regional officers. The goal is to enhance their capability as trainers/educators for other midwives who can serve as future NBS advocates.

This coming September 25-26, 2009, IMAP, together with the Association of Philippine Schools of Midwifery Region II Chapter, will conduct a training on Newborn Screening for midwives of Region II at the Birthing Home of Northeastern College in Santiago City, Isabela. A whole day lecture on newborn screening and return demonstration will be conducted to ensure that the midwives are trained effectively to perform the process.

IMAP President Patricia Gomez always includes the newborn screening campaign in all plans of the Association. She also emphasizes the need for midwives in the health centers, birthing clinics and facilities to always advocate and offer newborn screening and encourage mothers to let their newborns undergo the test.

IMAP actively joins efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals tar-

“Newborn screening is one way to help reduce infant mortality which is the goal of MDG4. We must campaign to ensure that newborns will have access to this service...”

gets (MDG), specifically MDG4, that is Reduction of Infant mortality. IMAP recognizes the value of newborn screening as a method to help achieve MDG4.

According to Ms. Gomez, “Newborn Screening is one way to help reach the target of MDG4. We must campaign to ensure that newborns will have access to this service, that’s why we are really encouraging our midwives to also take the training so that they can offer this service in their own workplace.” **(IMAP)**



Ang Phil. League of Gov't and Private Midwives, Inc at ang NBS

Marami nang naganap, maraming mga tanong na kailangan ng malalalim na sagot. Maraming naguguluhan, maraming nalilito, paano nangyari iyon sa aming mahal na anak, wala naman kaming lahi noon. Congenital Metabolic Disorders. Marami na rin silang may ganitong abnormalidad. Di ka pa ba kikilos, gusto mo pa bang dumami pa sila?

Sa lahat ng mga tanong, ito lang ang sagot: Newborn Screening, ngayon na! Ito na ang tamang panahon para tayong lahat ay magtulung-tulong. Kumilos na tayo. Kung hindi ngayon, kailan? Kung hindi tayo, sino?

Napakahalaga ng papel na ginagampana ng mga midwives sa pagpapalaganap ng NBS. Sa pagtutulungan ng lahat ng may katungkulan sa Philippine League of Government and Private Midwives Inc., (PLPGMI) sa pangunguna ng kanilang Pangulo, Asec. Cecille Bianca Santos, kasama ang inyong lingkod, ay naipalaganap namin ang kaalaman sa Newborn Screening sa mga midwives sa iba't ibang sulok ng bansa. (M Caumeran)

Mga orientations na nagawa sa tatlong (3) quarter ng 2009

Date	Venue	Participants	Date	Venue	Participants
February 5, 2009	Max's Taguig	60 RMs	August 13, 2009	San Mateo Rizal	54 RMs, BHW, Doctors
February 6, 2009	Camarines Sur	120 RMs	August 14, 2009	Summit Ridge Tagaytay	187 RMs
March 2, 2009	Timog, QC	80 RMs	August 18, 2009	ANHS – LGU RHU	100 Mun Council, Brgy. Officials, RMs, BHW
March 3, 2009	Meralco, Antipolo City	120 RMs			
March 16, 2009	Cagayan De Oro	80 RMs	August 20, 2009	Cebu	240 RMs
March 26, 2009	Chowking Pag-asa	15 PLPGMI-Rizal Officers	August 26, 2009	Angono, Rizal	75 Student Leaders
April 3, 2009	Koronadal	110 RMs	August 28, 2009	Cagayan De Oro	200 RMs
April 29, 2009	Tagbilaran, Bohol	35 RMs Officers	August 29, 2009	Antipolo City	80 Private RMs
July 2, 2009	Pizza Hut SM Taytay	3 Executive Sponsors	September 4, 2009	Davao	200 RMs
July 23, 2009	Montalban, Rizal	58 Staff Infirmary, RMs and Nurses	September 10, 2009	Baguio	300 RMs
July 24, 2009	Trader's Hotel	270 RMs	September 14, 2009	Pasig City	40 RMs
July 28, 2009	Imperial Palace QC	42 Officers	September 18, 2009	Antipolo/Teresa	60 RMs/BHW
July 31, 2009	Fontana Clark	180 RMs	September 22, 2009	Tanay/Jalajala/Pililia	60 RMs/BHW
August 4, 2009	Leisure Coast Dagupan	86 RMs	September 24, 2009	La Union	250 RMs

Mga susunod pang gawain/orientation sa last quarter

Date	Venue	Participants
October 1, 2009	Boracay	250 RMs
October 13, 2009	Angono, Rizal	50 Private practitioner & Hospital Based RMs
October 15, 2009	CARAGA	250 RMs
October 29, 2009	East Visayas	200 RMs
November 5, 2009	Tacloban	200 RMs
November 19, 2009	Zamboanga	250 RMs
November 21, 2009	Taytay, Cainta	60 RMs/BHW
November 25, 2009	Davao	250 RMs
November 28, 2009	SOCCSARGEN	250 RMs
December 3, 2009	NCR-Hospital-Based	200 RMs

Alay ni Inay

Pagmamahal na Tunay

By: Marissa Caumeran

Siyam na buwan kitang dala-dala

Bawat araw na lumipas,

Pag-aaruga laging una.

Sisiguruhin ko, paglabas mo

Newborn Screening uunahin ko

Para maipakita at maipadama

Kung gaano kamahal ka.

Anak ko, buhay ko

Sigurado, garantisado

Magiging maayos kinabukasan mo

Dahil inuna ko NBS mo.

Outstanding Facilities, Organizations, and Individuals

Every two years, the Department of Health (DOH) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), through the Newborn Screening Reference Center, recognize health institutions, organizations and individuals for valuable contribution to the implementation of the Comprehensive Newborn Screening System. The awards are based on a set of criteria established by DOH and NIH. This year's awarding rites will be held on October 1, 2009 at the Heritage Hotel Manila.

Exemplary Performance Award

The Exemplary Performance Award is given to health facilities which were able to screen 90% or above of their total live births for the past two consecutive years (2007 – 2008).

Aklan Coop. Mission Hospital	Chong Hua Hospital	Manila East Medical Center	San Pedro Doctors Hospital, Inc
Alfredo E. Marañon Sr. Memorial District Hospital	Davao Doctors Hospital	Maria Lourdes Maternity Hospital	Socargen County Hospital
Angeles Medical Center, Inc.	Don Salvador Benedicto Memorial District Hospital	Mary Mediatrix Medical Center	SPC Medical Center
Asian Hospital and Medical Center	Doña Marta Lying-In	Medical Center Manila	St. John The Baptist Medical Center, Inc.
Atang Dela Rama Health Center & Lying-In Center	Dr. Amando L. Garcia Medical Center	Medical Center Paranaque	St. Luke's Medical Center
AUF-Medical Center	Dr. Jesus C. Delgado Memorial Hospital	Metro Lipa Medical Center	St. Martin De Porres Hospital - San Juan
Bago City Hospital	Dr. Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center	Metropolitan Hospital	St. Paul's Hospital - Iloilo
Balibago Polyclinic & Hospital, Inc.	E.D. Lim Maternity & General Hospital	Midsayap Community Doctors Hospital	St. Therese - MTC Colleges Hospital
Bataan Doctors Hospital	Evangelista Medical Specialty Hospital	Molino Doctors Hospital	St. Victoria Hospital
Batangas Health Care Hospital (Jesus of Nazareth)	Family Care Hospital	MPI - Medical Center Muntinlupa	Sta. Cruz Laguna Polymedic Inc.
BCU - Sto. Niño Jesus Medical Center	Gertrudes Luderico - WFMC	Mt. Carmel Diocesan General Hospital	Sto. Tomas University Hospital
Beato Cauilan Hospital	Gov. Leandro L. Fullon District Hospital	N. L. Villa Memorial Medical Center	Tayabas Community Hospital, Inc.
Biñan Doctors Hospital, Inc.	Hospital of the Infant Jesus	Naic Doctors Hospital	Teresita L. Jalandoni Provincial Hospital
C.P. Reyes Hospital	Isaac & Catalina Medical Center	Notre Dame de Chartres Hospital	The Medical City
Cadiz District Hospital	Laguna Doctors Hospital	Novaliches General Hospital	Trinity Woman and Child Center
Calamba Doctors Hospital	Las Piñas City Medical Center	Olivarez General Hospital	"The Birth Place"
Capitol Medical Center	Las Piñas Lying-In Center	Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital	United Doctor's Medical Center
Casaul General Hospital	Lipa Medix Medical Center	Rural Health Unit - Dumalag	University of Perpetual Help Rizal Medical Center-Las Piñas
Cattleya - WFMC	Lorenzo D. Zayco District Hospital	Saint Gabriel Hospital	Women's Hospital
Celis Maternity Clinic	Lorma Medical Center	Saint Patrick's Hospital Medical Center	World Citi Medical Center
Chinese General Hospital	Los Baños Doctors Hospital, Inc.	San Fernando Hospital	(Quezon City Medical Center)
	Makati Medical Center	San Juan de Dios Hospital	
	Manila Adventist Medical Center	San Lorenzo Ruiz Women's Hospital	
		San Pablo Doctor's Hospital	

Achievers Award

The Achievers Award is given to health facilities which were able to screen 90% or above of its live births for one calendar year within the two year evaluation period.

2008	pital	Metro Rizal Doctors Hospital	San Isidro Hospital
A. Zarate General Hospital	De Jesus General Hospital	Metro South Medical Center	San Juan Doctors Hospital
Alabang Medical Clinic	Divine Grace Medical Center	Mindanao Medical Center	San Lorenzo Hospital - Q.C.
Alabang Medical Clinic - Muntinlupa Branch	Divine Word Hospital - Hagonoy	Mother Regina Hospital	San Pedro Hospital of Davao City Inc.
Alaminos Doctors Hospital	Dr. Adolfo Flores Memorial Hospital	Mother Teresa of Calcutta Medical Center	San Ramon Hospital
Albino M. Duran Memorial Hospital	Dr. Armando Cope Memorial Hospital	Naic Holy Spirit Medical & Lying-In Clinic	San Vicente Medical & Maternity Clinic
Allah Valley Medical Specialists Center	Dr. Pablo O. Torre Sr. Memorial Hospital	Nodado General Hospital - Novaliches	Seamen's Hospital
Arsenal Hospital	Fernando Air Base Hospital	Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Hospital	SJC-Amaya Birthing Home
Atok District Hospital	Gonzales Medical & Children's Hospital	Our Lady of Peace Hospital	Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center
Balagtas Doctor's Hospital	Grace La Salle Lying In Clinic	Our Lady of Pillar Medical Center	St. Dominic Medical Center
Bataan St. Joseph Hospital	Great Saviour International Hospital, Inc.	Pampanga Medical Specialist Hospital	St. Jude Hospital & Medical Center
Batanes General Hospital	H Vill Hospital	Pangasinan Center for Family Medicine	St. Margaret Medical Clinic
Bauan Doctors General Hospital	Holy Family Medical Clinic	Pascual General Hospital	St. Paul Hospital - Tuguegarao
Bethany Hospital	Iloilo Mission Hospital	Pasig Medical & Maternity Hospital Foundation	Sta. Rita Hospital
Bethany Hospital, Inc. - San Fernando	Jahanna Maternity and Lying-In Clinic	Perpetual Help Hospital - Manila	Sta. Rosa Hospital and Medical Center
Binalbagan Infirmary	Kapalong District Hospital	Perpetual Help Hospital - Olongapo	Sts. Francis & Paul General Hospital
Bohol St. Jude General Hosp	La Viña General Hospital, Inc.	Pines City Doctors' Hospital	Tagum Doctors Hospital, Inc.
Cagayan De Oro Medical Center, Inc.	Laguna Holy Family Hospital	Protacio Hospital	The Family Clinic, Inc.
Calalang General Hospital	Las Piñas Doctors Hospital	Queen Mary Help of Christians Hospital	Tiglaog General Hospital
Callejo Medical Clinic	Lucena United Doctors Hospital	Remedios Trinidad Romualdez Hospital	Tugon Medical Clinic and Hospital
Canossa Health & Social Center Foundation, Inc.	Manila Doctors Hospital	Ricardo Limso Medical Center, Inc.	UHBI - Paranaque Doctors Hospital
Capiz Emmanuel Hospital	Maria Aurora Community Hospital	Saint Jude Hospital, Inc.	UPLB Health Service
Children of Abraham Puericulture Center	Marikina Valley Medical Center	Saint Martin Maternity & Pediatric Hospital	V.L. Makabali Memorial Hosp., Inc.
Community Medical Clinic of Balagtas	Martinez Memorial Hospital	Saint Vincent de Paul Hospital	Velazco Hospital
Cruz-Dalida Maternity Hospital	Mary Immaculate Maternity Hospital	Salazar Polyclinic	West State University Medical Center
Cuison Hospital Incorporated	Medical Center Imus	San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc.	WFMC - Enriquez
Davao Medical School Foundation Hos-	Medical Centrum Dagupan		
	Medical Mission Group Hospitals & Health Services Cooperative		
		Madonna & Child Hospital	Palawan Adventist Hospital
		Makati Perpetual Help Medical, Maternity and Diagnostic Center	Rivera Medical Center, Inc.
		Mary Chiles General Hospital	Sacred Heart Hospital
		Metro Vigan Cooperative Hospital	Santo Tomas General Hospital
		OSPAs-Farmers Medical Center	Señor Sto. Niño Hospital
		Ospital ng Kabataan ng Dipolog, Inc.	St. Anne General Hospital, Inc.
		Our Lady of Mercy General Hospital	St. Jude Family Hospital - Laguna
			Sto. Rosario Hospital

2007

Alabang Medical Clinic - Talon Branch
 Apalit Doctor's Hospital, Inc.
 Bayawan District Hospital
 Borja Family Hospital Corporation
 Bukidnon Health Systems, Inc.
 Calamba Medical Center
 Cardinal Santos Medical Center

Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center
 De Ocampo Memorial Medical Center
 General Santos Doctors Hospital
 Gerona Hospital of the Sacred Heart
 Holy Child General Hospital
 Jaime B. Berces Memorial Hospital
 Lemery Doctors Medical Clinic
 Lipa Doctors Hospital

Palawan Adventist Hospital
 Rivera Medical Center, Inc.
 Sacred Heart Hospital
 Santo Tomas General Hospital
 Señor Sto. Niño Hospital
 St. Anne General Hospital, Inc.
 St. Jude Family Hospital - Laguna
 Sto. Rosario Hospital

Newborn Screening Follow-up Teams created

Three Newborn Screening Follow-up Teams convened on August 24, 2009 at the Alviror Hall, College of Medicine, UP Manila to lay down plans. Each team was created as part of the **National Newborn Screening Follow-up Committee (NNSFC)** to ensure prompt and appropriate management of babies with positive screen. It is composed of the NSRC Director as Chair; the heads of NSC Newborn Screening Follow up Team; and the Designated Adviser to the Committee. The following are the **NNSFC's** specific functions:

1. To review Newborn Screening Center (NSC) reports on outcome of positive screens and confirmed cases;
2. To review follow-up protocol;
3. To submit quarterly reports to NTWG; and
4. To recommend revisions to follow up protocol for implementation by the NSCs

Each NSC was tasked to create a team composed of a pediatric endocrinologist, a metabolic physician, and a follow up nurse. The role of these health professionals is essential in saving babies from the debilitating consequences of the disorders being screened. They will take charge of monitoring and managing the patients. In this initial meeting, NSC Unit Heads and Program Managers were present to ensure clear delineation of roles and responsibilities. (*V Mendoza*)



Dr. Padilla of NSRC facilitates the orientation and laying down of the teams' plans

Midyear Newborn Screening Program Review

On August 25-26, 2009, 16 CHDs, represented by their NBS coordinators and NBS nurse coordinators gathered together for a two-day workshop to discuss emerging issues following the adoption of innovative strategies, like the employment of nurses. The activity focused on generating inputs from the different CHDs



The Regional Medical and Nurse Coordinators in Visayas and the Newborn Screening Center-Visayas' Head during their action planning and strategy formulation workshop

toward concerted efforts to increase the national NBS coverage for 2009. The workshop was facilitated by three NSC unit heads and their follow-up nurses.

One of the strategies identified by CHD was more intensive advocacy at the community level for wider information of newborn screening and to provide enabling mechanisms that would promote wider participation of rural health units, private lying-ins and birthing homes. The CHD of Mindanao and Visayas also identified as one of their strategies the conduct of an island level consultative workshop to discuss and brainstorm issues specific to their being island groups. (*MO Bulasa*)

Outstanding Achiever – RHU Award

The Outstanding Achiever – RHU Award is given to Rural Health Units which were able to screen 75% or above of its live births for the past two consecutive years (2007 and 2008). Only one RHU made it to the list: RHU Dumalag – Region 6

Special Awards

This award is given to individuals, organizations, institutions, and facilities in recognition of their commitment to and invaluable efforts in advocating newborn screening. The awardees are:

Arvin S. Escueta, MD
Atty. Alexander A. Padilla
Carmelita Fagela-Domingo, MD, MSC
Col. Estelita T. Galutira, NC
Juanita A. Basilio, MD, MPH
Lita L. Orbillo, RN, MPH
Ma. Theresa G. Vera, MD, MSC, MHA
Maria Beatriz P. Gepte, MD, FPPS
Mario C. Villaverde, MD, MPH, MPM, CESO I
Rowena A. Pua, MD
Yolanda E. Oliveros, MD, MPH, CESO VI

Center for Health Development - NCR
Center for Health Development - VI
City Health Office – Malaybalay City
City Health Office of Las Piñas
City Health Office of Lipa
Manila Health Department
Parañaque City Health Office
Provincial Government of
Negros Occidental

What's New?

- A new design of filter card will be released before the year ends.
- The filter card has a detachable and adhesive filter card number/barcode for NSF use. This detachable and adhesive filter card will be placed in the PhilHealth claim form for Newborn Care Package (NCP)
 - The filter card now contains a single form sheet. The carbonized paper has been removed.
 - The filter card can now fit in a large mail envelope. A large mail envelop can accommodate five filter cards.
 - An instruction on how to perform the heel prick method is included at the back of the form. (*See next page for the new filter card*)



TO AVOID DELAYS IN PROCESSING COMPLETE THIS FORM ACCURATELY

INITIAL SAMPLE REPEAT SAMPLE

Baby's Last Name _____ For Twins 2A, 2B
For Triplets 2A, 2B, 2C

Mother's First Name _____

Date of Birth (d/m/yyyy) _____ Time (h:mm) _____ AM/PM _____ Sex _____ Birth Wt. (gms) _____

Date of Collection (d/m/yyyy) _____ Time (h:mm) _____ AM/PM _____ Age of Gestation _____ Specimen _____

Feeding 1. Breast 2. Lactose Formula 3. Soy/Lactose-Free 4. NPO 5. TPN 6. 1 & 2 7. 1 & 3

Hospital/Place of Collection _____

Hospital/Place of Birth _____

Attending Practitioner (Last Name, First Name) _____

The Practitioner 1. Doctor 2. Nurse 3. Midwife 4. Other _____

Practitioner's Day Contact Number _____ Practitioner's Mobile Number _____

Baby's Status 0. Normal 1. Sick 2. Premature 3. On Antibiotics 4. Date of Blood Transfusion _____
 5. Combination of above, please state _____ 6. Other relevant clinical information _____

FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY

Sample ID _____

Old Patient ID _____

Reveal sample required due to:

contaminated sample delayed transit (>14 days)
 insufficient sample post - BT or ET
 <24 hrs after birth initial positive

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Number and Street _____

Barangay / City _____

Province _____ Zip Code _____

Contact No. of Parent/Guardian _____

XXXXXXXXXX

Detach for PhilHealth use.

Newborn Screening Center • National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila • P.O. Box 297 Manila Central Post Office

ADHESIVE BACKING

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HEEL PRICK SPECIMEN COLLECTION

With ball point pen, COMPLETE all information requested on form. Write LEGIBLY. See diagram below for puncture site. Avoid previous puncture sites or curvature of the heel.

- Worm infant's foot for about 3 minutes to increase blood flow.
- Disinfect puncture site with 70% alcohol. Dry skin with sterile gauze.
- Puncture the heel in two quick successive strokes using a sterile lancet with a 2.5mm tip. Wipe the first drop of blood as it may be contaminated by disinfectant or tissue fluid.
- Allow the second drop to form.
- Drop the blood onto the circle. Allow the blood to completely saturate. The blood will soak through the back of the filter card. DO NOT APPLY BLOOD TO BOTH SIDES.
- Fill all four circles.
- Do not touch filter paper portion. Skin oils will prevent saturation.
- Allow blood spots to air dry thoroughly for at least four hours at room temperature. Keep away from direct sunlight and heat. Never superimpose one wet filter paper on another.

NOTE: Specimens may be UNSATISFACTORY for reporting if:

- The circles are not completely filled.
- The specimen is oversaturated due to layering of blood.
- The specimen is not allowed to dry thoroughly.
- The specimen is contaminated.

- When submitting one or more specimens, alternate forms so that blood spots in adjacent forms are not in contact.
- Always keep specimen collection forms in a cool dry place to prevent moisture absorption prior to mailing or while storing prior to use.
- Heel filter paper forms within 24 hours to the designated Newborn Screening Center.

Preferred puncture site is indicated by shaded areas on heel.

Manufactured by ID Biomedical, Inc. (USA)

NSC-Visayas Corner

NBS presented at ARMM Health Assembly

The role of local government units in saving babies through Newborn Screening was discussed during the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Health Assembly entitled "The Quest for Excellence through FOURmula One" last July 14-16, 2009 at Waterfront Insular Hotel in Davao City. The health assembly was participated in by over 500 public health professionals and local chief executives.

It was a remarkable moment both for DOH and ARMM as they implement important health sector reforms in ARMM provinces. The health summit revolved around ways and means of enhancing the health sector's quest for excellence. The event provided a venue for NBS to seek, along with other priority health programs, the commitment and active participation of all stakeholders and health partners in improving the health condi-



Guests, and participants of the DOH-ARMM Health Assembly 2009

tion of the ARMM populace.

The inclusion of newborn screening as one of the topics in the Assembly was made possible through the collaboration of the Department of Health, Newborn Screening Centers-Visayas and Mindanao and the Newborn Screening Reference Center. (V Mendoza)

ACTIVITIES

2nd G6PD Deficiency Parent's Seminar

The second G6PD Deficiency Parents' Seminar for 2009 was held at the UP Manila College of Pharmacy Auditorium last August 28, 2009. Over 200 parents attended the seminar. Also present were NBS coordinators from the Centers for Health Development-NCR and CALABARZON, and representatives from the Manila Health Department. Dr. Catherine Lynn Silao, Molecular Genetics Program Coordinator of the Institute of Human Genetics, talked about the genetic nature of the disorder while Dr. Beatriz Gepte, Hematology-Oncology Consultant of the Philippine Children's Medical Center, discussed the clinical manifestations, drugs, and chemicals that must be avoided by a G6PD deficient. The next parents' seminar will be in December 2009. For inquiries, please call (02) 526-1725 or text 09285060960. (*JA Terrado*)



The parents and guardians listening to the lectures and important reminders to G6PD patients

2009 NBS Cluster Meeting –NCR

The Newborn Screening Center-NIH in collaboration with the Center for Health and Development -National Capital Region (CHD-NCR), conducted a series of Newborn Screening Cluster Meetings for 2009 on August 24, 28 and 31. Of 47 Newborn Screening Facilities (NSFs), 33 joined in the exchange of ideas, testimonials and sharing of experiences in the operation and implementation of Newborn Screening Program in their respective areas.

Each facility was presented with their performance rating card. The performance rating card contained the number of screened versus their live births, and the quality of blood samples forwarded to the Newborn Screening Center. Ms Wenalyn Viaña, Acting Program Manager, stressed the need to reach a 50% coverage by 2009 and 85% by 2010. Ms Lui Reyes, Head of the Newborn Screening Center, also appealed to NBS Coordinators to monitor their respective facilities to help decrease the number of contaminated and unsatisfactory samples submitted to the laboratory.

Also present in the cluster meeting were CHD-NCR Coordinators Dr. Deo Del Rosario and Ms Hermes Pascua who explained the role of CHDs in the overall operations of the National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System.

For the last quarter of this year, regional cluster meetings will be held outside Metro Manila. (*W Viaña*)

Reunion of Saved Babies

As part of the celebration of this year's Newborn Screening Week, the Newborn Screening Center—National Institutes of Health will hold a reunion of saved babies on October 11, 2009 at the Ang Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman. This event is being held every year to celebrate the normal lives of the children and, at same time, urge the support of their parents in actively advocating newborn screening to other pregnant mothers. (*V Mendoza*)

Common Mistakes in Newborn Screening Blood Sample Collection

Here are the topmost common mistakes done by health facilities in blood sample collection for newborn screening.

Common Mistakes	What to do
NO Feeding. The feeding information is left empty. Feeding is important in the determination and analysis for Galactosemia and Phenyke-	Ensure that one of the following items is checked.
Missing Information. One or more of the information in the filter card is left empty, i.e. Date and Time of Birth, Data and Time of Collection. All data are critical in the determination and analysis of each disorder tested.	Ensure that all the items in the filter card are supplied.
Data Erasures. Information are crossed out/applied with correction fluid.	Ensure readiness/correctness of data prior to filling in the filter card.
Contaminated Samples. Sample unfit for testing mostly due to blood layering, improper storage, and improper handling.	Allow a big drop of blood to form on the baby's heel before applying it onto the filter card. Place one drop of blood on each of the circumscribed circles. Aim for complete saturation of each of the four blood spots.



Program Implementers collaborate with LCEs

The Department of Health, Center for Health Development-BICOL, Newborn Screening Reference Center and Newborn Screening Center-NIH keep on the capacity of the local government units in the newborn screening implementation in the region. The LCEs present in the Assembly



The program implementers and the Local Chief Executives and representatives during the LGU Assembly held in Legaspi City

looking for partners to ensure that all newborns are given the opportunity to undergo newborn screening.

The program implementers saw the need to intensify advocacy and collaborative endeavors with the local chief executives, communities and individuals in Bicol Region. Hence, they conducted a LGU Assembly on July 8, 2009 at Jennifer's Kababayan Hotel, Legaspi City. The said activity aimed at strengthening

were Mayor Leo Mendoza of San Andres Catanduanes, Mayor Gregorio Angeles of Panganiban Catanduanes, Mayor Helen de Castro of Bulan Sorsogon, and Mr. Rudy Rañola, ABC President Masbate.

Dr. Julio Javier, Jr. of CHO-Las Piñas and Dr. Fulbert Gillego of CHO-Legaspi shared their respective LGU's efforts in promoting the NBS program and ensuring that every newborn in their locality is subjected to the test. (*V Mendoza*)

ducts a staff meeting to discuss updates on NBS services, identify gaps and concerns and find solutions. The passing of a Local Health Board Resolution in Dumalag which grants non-PHILHEALTH members free NBS services through AICS (Assistance in Crisis Situation) fund is an output of the regular meetings being conducted by the RHU. The said resolution was made possible through the leadership of Mayor Lilia Castro and her untiring support to all health programs..

Reaching 100% target

By end of 2010, RHU Dumalag expects to reach a 100% performance in newborn screening. It will target babies delivered in the Barangay Health Station. A yearly award and merit system for barangays that will achieve a 100% screening is being planned as an incentive. The Unit vows to sustain its commitment and continually support the newborn screening program. (*AM Belasoto/ L Reyes*)

Newborn Screening Centers Directory

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