

of the LGUs implementing NBS and awarded us with 10 filter cards. Likewise, P50 of the P600 newborn screening fee was used to augment clinic needs, such as supplies and equipment and for the renovation of the newborn screening room. It was also used for communication expenses in releasing results to parents and transportation expenses in following up initially positive cases which is being done by a barangay volunteer. Through these financial schemes, service delivery has become less of a burden to our facility.

There were funny, even poignant experiences encountered in our facility. In a setting where clients are not open in their beliefs and financially way below the average income bracket, obstacles had to be overcome. We proudly declare that all mothers who had prenatal check up at the center comply with NBS because they are well informed. In this regard, we appreciate the support of one barangay chairman for shouldering the NBS cost of one of his constituents who could not afford the amount. Parents whose babies are positive in one of the five disorders being screened are now empowered to deal with the problem.

We are also proud to have been chosen by CHD-NCR in a program that would give free confirmatory test for babies born in our facility who were initially found deficient in G6PD. Since 2009, Bo. Fugoso has consistently maintained an almost 100% screening performance. It is interesting to note that all parents in the community pay for their babies' newborn screening tests.

The overwhelming support of the staff, NBS Coordinator, and parents, as well as other sectors, has finally paid off. Our mission of seeing all babies screened for congenital problems is becoming a reality. Likewise, we are hopeful that the vision of having all babies born with metabolic conditions grow into healthy children will be realized. - B Maniebo

### Strengthening Unity, Leadership, and Commitment to Health

The Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health-Philippines (VYLH) gathered for the first national leadership congress with the theme "Strengthening Unity, Leadership, and Commitment to Health" on 25-27 May 2011 at the Fontana Leisure Park in Clark Field, Pampanga.



1. Youth leaders pose with children afflicted with Rare Diseases and guests from the Philippine Society of Orphan Disorders.

The Congress was organized to strengthen the leadership skills of volunteer youth leaders and facilitate the exchange of experiences among volunteers. Participated in by 100 young volunteers from different schools and communities nationwide, the event was graced by guests from the Department of Health, Newborn Screening Reference Center, Newborn Screening Centers, and Centers for Health Development. It consisted of symposia and workshops facilitated by competent speakers and consultants from different fields: Climate Change and Health, Youth and Migration, Public Relations, Effective Leadership, Lecture on Lobbying, and Adolescent and Reproductive Health. These were followed by socialization activities, such as the variety show, cultural presentation, and cluster exhibits.

On the third day of the Congress, a new set of officers were elected. They were Ryan John Pascual, President; Frank Daniel Canlobo, VP for Luzon; Floyd Edrea, VP for Visayas; Anthony Torralba, VP for Mindanao; Mary Char Bey de Castro, Secretary; Donn Morrice Go, Treasurer; and Kathrina Dee Gurro, Auditor. - V Mendoza



2. delegates from Mindanao strike for a group photo after the Cultural Presentation. 3. Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla, and Dr. Eduardo C. Jainara led in the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the VYLH Exhibit.



3



Warm greetings. In behalf of the Philippine Pediatric Society Northern Luzon Chapter and the Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc., I would like to invite our fellow health workers to the 9th Newborn Screening Convention on October 4, 2011 to be held at Hotel Ariana, Bauang, La Union, Philippines.

This year's theme is Improving Newborn Screening Practices and Outcomes. Interesting topics are Expanded Newborn Screening among Filipino Newborns, Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD), Diets for PKU and MSUD, Newborn Hearing Screening Updates, Screening for Retinopathy of Prematurity, and Status of the Philippine Newborn Screening Program.

We value your presence and may you have a satisfying and intellectual convention. Welcome and experience Garden Coast La Union.

*Eliseo O. Laron Jr., MD, FPPS*

Eliseo O. Laron Jr., MD, FPPS  
President  
Philippine Pediatric Society  
Northern Luzon Chapter

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Visit [www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph) to download the convention brochure

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### The Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines

In coordination with the

Philippine Pediatric Society- Northern Luzon Chapter

Invite you to the

## 9th Newborn Screening Convention IMPROVING NEWBORN SCREENING PRACTICES & OUTCOMES

October 04, 2011  
Hotel Ariana, Paringao  
Bauang, La Union

### TOPICS:

- Expanded Newborn Screening among Filipino Newborns
- Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD)
- Diets for PKU and MSUD
- Newborn Hearing Screening Updates
- Screening for Retinopathy of Prematurity
- Follow – up Guidelines
- Status of the Philippine Newborn Screening Program

### SPEAKERS:

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Asian Hospital and Medical Center

**Carmencita D. Padilla, MD, MAHPS**  
Clinical Geneticist / Director  
Newborn Screening Reference Center,  
UP-National Institute of Health



Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
A. Francisco Gold Cardanarium II, EDSA, Diliman, Quezon City  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

April 25, 2011

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR  
N.O. 2011-57

TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY MAYORS, MUNICIPAL MAYORS, PUNONG BARANGAYS, ARMM REGIONAL GOVERNOR, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : ENSURING ADHERENCE TO DILG MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2008-160 DATED ON THE SUBJECT, "IMPLEMENTATION OF RA 9288 OR THE NEWBORN SCREENING ACT OF 2004"

Despite the issuance of DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2009-160 on October 9, 2009, there was no significant increase in the nationwide newborn screening coverage. At the end of 2010, only 589,897 or 35% of the total newborn population was screened, of which 205,694 babies were screened from the LGU-run health facilities.

Newborn screening (NBS) is a public health program for the early identification of disorders that can lead to mental retardation and death. NBS was integrated into the public health delivery system with the enactment of Republic Act No. 9288 or Newborn Screening Act of 2004, which states that every baby born in "shall have an opportunity to undergo screening" and "the State shall ensure that adequate and sustained newborn screening services" is provided. NBS is now part of the licensing and accreditation of health facilities of the Department of Health and is now included in the PHC Newborn Care Package.

In this connection, and in reiterating DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2009-160 to prompt all agencies involved for full support and cooperation to implement NBS, all Local Chief Executives are strongly encouraged to include in the agenda of their respective Local Health Program, the formalization and adoption of policies and program interventions on newborn screening, and to provide funds for the implementation of the Newborn Screening Program in their respective jurisdiction. The following rules of LGUs are also given emphasis:

- Develop capabilities of health workers;
- Issue local ordinances and resolutions that integrate NBS in the health delivery system;
- Ensure that adequate and sustain NBS services such as information, education, communication, screening, recall and follow-up are being provided in the LGU health facilities;
- Establish a functional case management referral system with strategically accessible NCRHS treatment network;
- Monitor and evaluate the NBS implementation in their localities;
- Explore/encourage creative financial packages to make NBS accessible particularly among the economically-disadvantaged populace; and
- Perform other roles and responsibilities as deemed necessary for the implementation of the Act.

The ARMM Regional Governor and DILG Regional Directors are hereby directed to ensure the widest dissemination of this Memorandum Circular.

For compliance,

*Jesse M. Robredo*

JESSE M. ROBREDO  
Secretary



Newborn Screening Reference Center  
National Institutes of Health  
University of the Philippines Manila  
Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila 1000

## DILG Memo Seeks to Increase Newborn Screening Coverage

The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) has been instrumental in actively involving local chief executives in the implementation of newborn screening in different provinces, municipalities, and cities. DILG released a Memorandum Circular on 25 April 2011 to ensure adherence to the implementation of Republic Act 9288 or the Newborn Screening Act of 2004.

The move was agreed upon in a meeting between NSRC Director Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla and DILG Secretary Jesse M. Robredo on 09 February 2011 at the Bayview Park Hotel, Manila. Sec. Robredo expressed full commitment to the implementation of newborn screening right after learning about the importance of the program. He encouraged all women legislators who attended the 12<sup>th</sup> National Summit of the Lady Local Legislators League of the Philippines held on the same day to support the program in every possible way. - V Mendoza

## Eighty Government Health Facilities screens more than 90 of their live births

Eighty government newborn screening facilities will be recognized in the coming Newborn Screening Awards for screening more than 90% of their total live births. The awarding rites will be held on October 3, 2011 at the Traders Hotel, Pasay City.

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. - V Mendoza

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# newborn screening

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## Bo. Fugoso Health Center Lying-In Setting High Standard for Metro Manila

By: Dr. Bernadette Maniebo, Physician-in-Charge

Newborn Screening in Bo. Fugoso Health Center and Lying-in-Clinic seemed like a far away dream. In 2004, all lying-in facilities of Manila were given directives to implement the newborn screening program in accordance with Republic Act 9288. However, it was only in 2006 that our facility started implementing the program. It was also the year when I was assigned as the new physician-in-charge of Bo. Fugoso following the retirement of my successor. Bo. Fugoso Health Center and Lying-in Clinic serves a population of approximately 120,000 with 40 barangays including the depressed areas of Parola and Isla Puting Bato.

### Beginnings

I started the NBS program implementation by training the midwife supervisor of the Lying-in Clinic on the tasks involved in performing the procedure. I personally handled the training being the only member of the group with a formal training on newborn screening. The midwife supervisor willingly accepted the challenge, albeit with fear. She was soon learning the ropes of how newborn screening is done. We improvised the Midwife's Lounge to serve as our newborn screening room. Initially, there were mistakes. But these never disheartened us. They gave us opportunities to learn. Our Newborn Screening Coordinator from the Maternal and Child Health Department was always there to support us. By the end of 2006, we were screening 21% of our live births. In 2007, our performance rating rose to 64%.

### Overcoming challenges

It was a good start but not enough by accepted standard. The task to screen babies was impinging on our other responsibilities, as well as space at the center. A meeting was held with the staff members to come up with strategies on how we can be effective implementers of NBS. A group team was established to handle the NBS program. We also realized the need to increase our capacity building through formal staff training and logistics provision. Strategies to strengthen our advocacy were incorporated in the daily activities of the Center. Mothers whose babies are positive for one of the disorders were invited to give testimonials during immunization day to encourage those whose babies were not yet screened. Advocacy was further intensified in the community and even in private lying-in clinics as part of our networking linkages. The full-blast implementation of the program increased our coverage to 87% by the end of 2008. In 2009, we were screening almost all live births. We were also screening babies born at home and in other facilities.

### Extending beyond

From the nominal financial gains acquired in NBS, the initial five filter cards were increased to 30 to accommodate walk-in patients. In December 2008, the Center for Health Development of NCR chose Bo. Fugoso as one of its live births. In 2007, our performance rating rose to 64%.

## CHDs in South Luzon Work on Increasing NBS Coverage

More strategies were planned to address pressing issues on NBS screening compliance and quality of NBS samples in South Luzon during the 4th South Luzon Zonal Meeting organized by the Newborn Screening Center-NIH on 29 June 2011.

Midyear data on regional performances and rankings in terms of coverage and quality of samples were presented. Based on these data, the following strategies were formulated: 1) distribution of filter cards as seed to district hospitals, lying-ins and RHUs; 2) organization of an NBS summit in each region; 3) dovetailing of activities with other maternal and child care activities by DOH; 3) lobbying for indigents' support from LGUs and NGOs with focus on at least two LGUs per month; 4) informing NSF's of their compliance; 5) visiting hospitals with frequent violations; and 6) focusing efforts on areas with very low coverage.

NBS coordinators from the Center for Health Development offices from Regions 4A, 4B, 5, and NCR attended the said meeting. -*JA Terrado / I Fortugaleza*

## NBS part of 33<sup>rd</sup> National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week

The National Council on Disability Affairs or NCDA, in celebration of the 33rd National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week (NDRPW), sponsored 198 NBS kits. These were donated and equally allocated among six health facilities, namely the Philippine General Hospital, Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Medical Center, East Avenue Medical Center, Angono General Hospital, Dr. J.P. Rizal Memorial Hospital, and General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital. The memorandum of agreement between NCDA and NSC-NIH states that 33 NBS kits would be delivered to the six health facilities a week before July 17 – 23, 2011. The said health facilities were requested to provide NBS service to indigent newborns delivered during the NDRPW celebration. -*JA Terrado*

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## NSC-NIH to Relocate to UP Ayala Land TechnoHub

Preparations are underway for the transfer of the Newborn Screening Center-National Institutes of Health (NSC-NIH) to its new location at Building H, UP Ayala Land Technohub Complex, Commonwealth Avenue, Brgy. UP Campus, Diliman QC. It was early 2010 when the Center, currently located at the 2nd floor of the National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila, requested the immediate transfer to another site.

Several reasons led to the transfer, one of which is space and circuit overloading problems in the current location due to the growth of the Center in terms of personnel and equipment subsequent to an increase in member-newborn screening facilities.

Ongoing construction of its new building is almost 50% complete. Tentative date of transfer is September 2011. An official announcement will be posted at [www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph) once the center is fully operational in the new site. - *I Fortugaleza*

## NSC-NIH Joins 'Fly for Rare'

On 18 June 2010, NSC-NIH joined as one of the sponsors of 'Fly for Rare,' an event that aims to benefit children with rare disorders. 'Fly for Rare,' held at Presidio, Lakefront, Sucat, Muntinlupa, was a family and barkada kite-flying event organized by the Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders. Activities during the event included a kite-flying workshop, kite exhibit, and a kite-flying competition. Funds were raised through registration fee collection, event partnership, cash sponsorship, and kite sponsorship. Proceeds will go to the CARE FOR RARE FUND to subsidize the critical and emergency medical needs of Filipino children born and afflicted with rare diseases.

The event also served as an opportunity to campaign for and advertise NBS services offered by the center. Ms. Joanna Terrado, Project Development Officer of NSC-NIH, attended the actual kite-flying activity for the organization.

The Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders, Inc. is a non-stock, non-profit organization organized in June 2006 to ensure sustainability of medical and financial support of patients with rare disorders. Filipino patients born with rare disorders require multi-disciplinary care and life-long administration of therapies and food supplements. Without help from the private sector, treatment is elusive, especially to indigent patients, due to prohibitive cost and accessibility. Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla, current NSRC Director, is also the Chairperson of PSOD. ([www.psod.org](http://www.psod.org)) - *I Fortugaleza*

## 2nd G6PD Deficiency Parents' Seminar for 2011

The Newborn Screening Center-NIH conducted the 2nd G6PD Deficiency Parents' Seminar for 2011 at the UP Manila College of Pharmacy Auditorium on 17 June 2011. Around 250 parents and guardians participated in the said event.

Dr. Catherine Lynn Silao, Molecular Genetics Program Coordinator of the Institute of Human Genetics, spoke on 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 G6PD deficient individuals et al. The goal of the NSC-NIH is to conduct at least three seminars per year. The next parents' seminar is tentatively set for September 2011. For inquiries please call (02) 526-1725, text 09285060960 or email [nbsadmin.ihq@gmail.com](mailto:nbsadmin.ihq@gmail.com). The schedule will also be posted at [www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph). -*JA Terrado*

## NSC-Visayas: 2011 Reunion of Saved Babies in Negros Occidental

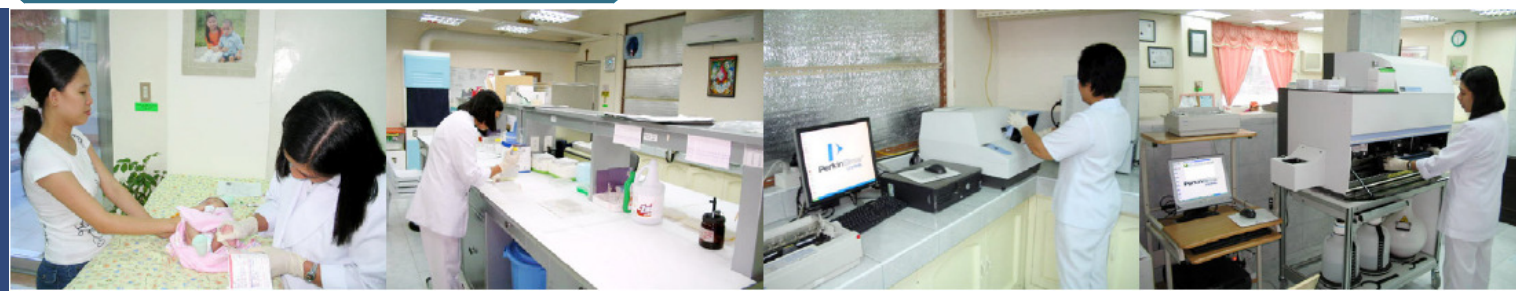
Parents and their saved babies from Negros Occidental were invited to the Reunion of Saved Babies organized by the Newborn Screening Center-Visayas on 2 April 2011 at Palmas del Mar, Bacolod City.

The event aimed to assure wellness and comprehensive care of patients with inborn metabolic disorders detected through newborn screening by increasing the awareness of family members and health care providers on the nature and management of inborn metabolic disorders. It also served as an opportunity for patients and their families to interact with other patients who share the same condition.

Dr. Rennilyn Reyes, a pediatrician and DOH-CHD VI NBS Medical Coordinator, emphasized during the event the importance of regular follow-ups and compliance with treatment of confirmed positive patients. She also cited the parents' role in providing a better quality life for their children. Benevolent sponsors from the Junior Chamber International Philippines -Iloilo Ilang-Ilang headed by Dr. Maria Liza Nava, FPCP, pledged to help in monitoring and providing medicines for indigent patients.

To strengthen parents' involvement in the program, a parents' support group for Negros Occidental area was formed. The elected officers were Roger Codez - Chairperson, Mrs. Evelyn Tionko - Vice Chairperson, Ma. Irene Lobaton - Secretary, and Delia Abellana - Treasurer.

Guests enjoyed the food, games, and give-aways prepared by the Palmas del Mar and Newborn Screening Center Visayas staff, and private sponsors. After the activity, everyone was invited to take the summer plunge. - *AL Millares / D Buensalido*



## Medical Technology: Gearing Towards Idealism and Beyond

In the Philippines, a greater percentage of laboratory personnel are medical technologists. In newborn screening, they play a vital role in performing laboratory tests and providing accurate NBS results. The society of medical technologists in our country makes significant contribution to the improvement of the country's newborn screening services.

As a matter of fact, one of the topics included in the 16th National PAMET Mid-year Convention on May 18-21, 2011, held at Bohol Tropics Resort and Convention Center, is Newborn Screening. Dr. J Edgar Winston C. Posecion, DPPS, Unit Head of Newborn Screening Center - Visayas, shared his knowledge and expertise in neonatal screening. He gave an overview of the Philippine NBS program and discussed the different laboratory tests being performed.

This gesture is an expression that PAMET is ready to embrace breakthroughs in its field. The NBS Stakeholders are looking forward to the time when more professional organizations take part in advocating and implementing newborn screening. - *D Buensalido*

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## FAVISMO 2: The Second Stage

Glucose-6-Phosphate-Dehydrogenase Deficiency is the most prevalent inborn metabolic disorder in the Visayas region detected through newborn screening. According to 2009 data, it affects 1 in every 51 newborns in the Philippines.

Participants to the Favismo 2 held on May 31 2011 at Roxas City.

Because of its high incidence, knowledge on this disorder is very important not only to health care personnel but also to the general public. On 31 May 2011, the Newborn Screening Center Visayas (NSC-V) concluded a G6PD deficiency forum entitled "Favismo 2: The Second Stage" at the La Hacienda Hotel, Roxas City. New developments were integrated into the program to address the needs of the public. It was a sequel to last year's "Favismo".

There were 130 attendees composed of babies with G6PD deficiency, their parents, and health workers from different health facilities in Capiz. The babies had free G6PD confirmatory tests sponsored by NSC-V. Members from different nursing schools in Capiz were also present to advocate newborn screening.

The event was an avenue for new learning experiences. It gave NSC-V staff the opportunity to interact with fellow health workers, parents, and patients. Dr. Marilyn Dela Cruz-Castro gave a very informative lecture on the nature, complications, and management of the disorder. She emphasized the importance of early detection and prevention of complications. Dr. Castro finished her fellowship in hematology and oncology at the Philippine Children's Medical Center.

The success of the event was made possible through partnership with the Department of Health – Center for Health Development VI and Capiz Provincial Health Office. - *D Buensalido*

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## NSC-M Implements Zero Accident Program

Since its establishment in 2009, the Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao (NSC-M) has always regarded safety in the workplace as a top priority. To ensure that the work environment is safe, NSC-M organized a seminar on Basic Fire, Earthquake, and Hazardous Materials Preparedness and Response on 7 May 2011. SFO1 Danny T. Padayugdog, Chief of Building and Electrical Section of the Davao City Fire District, Bureau of Fire and Protection, conducted a basic workshop on Fire Safety, Earthquake Emergency Response, and Basic Life Support while SINSIP Randolph V. Arbutante, HAZMAT Officer, discussed vital information on handling emergencies involving hazardous materials, specifically the chemicals used in the laboratory of NSC-M.

NSC-M also coordinated with the Bureau of Occupational Safety and Health, a partner agency of the DOLE, to learn more about Occupational Safety and Health Standards under Article 162 of the Philippine Labor Code.

To formalize the adoption of national standards on occupational safety and health, two newly assigned safety officers, Ms. Anna Marie Moya, RMT and Mr. Edbert Jasper M. Jover, RN were sent to the Occupational Safety and Health Center, Diliman, Quezon City to undergo the Basic Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) Training from 27 June – 1 July 2011. The training equipped participants from different organizations with additional knowledge and skills in implementing the Zero Accident Program (ZAP) in their respective institutions.

Currently, the Safety Committee of NSC-M headed by Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez (Unit Head), Mr. Venchie Badong (Laboratory Manager), Ms. Moya (OSH Officer – Laboratory), and Mr. Jover (OSH Officer – Admin Section), conducts weekly meetings to discuss occupational health among the staff members. These meetings aim to continuously improve the safety and health practices of NSC-M and also serve as vital guideposts in the formulation of new policies and updates in the Center's Safety Manual. -*J Jover*

## NSC-M Holds NSF Cluster Meeting from Region 12 and ARMM



Participants and organizers to the Cluster Meeting held on June 30, 2011 in Bansalan, Davao del Sur.

The Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao conducted a Cluster Meeting of selected NSF's in Region 12, specifically those from Cotabato, Cotabato City, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Maguindanao-ARMM. Held at the Viacrus Medical Clinic and Hospital in Bansalan on 30 June 2011, the meeting was attended by 13 NSF's of which seven were inactive. Also in attendance were the nurse coordinators of CHD-XII and DOH-ARMM, Ms. Mary Agnes Dimacisil and Ms. Amerah Matuan, respectively. The activity was very productive as several NBS problems were tackled. NSC-M also provided NBS tarpaulins to several NSF's to help in advocacy efforts and increase the number of babies screened. - *S Guilaran*

## Advocacy Efforts on Newborn Screening in ARMM



Nursing Students of Notre Dame University during the workshop held on January 14, 2011.

Saving lives of babies through strengthening newborn screening advocacy in the region has always been a commitment of the Department of Health - Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (DOH-ARMM).

The DOH-ARMM recognizes that improving the state of newborn screening program, especially coverage in ARMM, is a big challenge. All health care providers were urged to inform all parents on the benefits and availability of comprehensive newborn screening. One of the strategies employed by DOH-ARMM is tapping the academe to hold seminar-workshops for nursing students of different universities and colleges.

Despite fund and other resource constraints, DOH-ARMM abides by its role to educate and equip all health practitioners with the knowledge and skills needed on NBS through trainings. On 9-10 February and 16-18 May 2011, the Center conducted training in two hospitals in Marawi City and Bongao Doctors Hospital, respectively. The trainings helped improve the status of NBS in ARMM's areas of responsibility and help the Newborn Screening Facilities to resolve issues in implementing the program. -*A Matuan*

## Forum on CH and G6PD Deficiency Held in Cagayan De Oro City

The Center for Health Development (CHD)-Region 10, spearheaded by Dr. Ellenietta Gamolo, NBS Coordinator of the region, held a forum on Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH) and Glucose-6-Phosphate-Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency on 8 April 2011 at the Pearlmont Inn, Cagayan De Oro City. Dr. Conchita Abarquez and Dr. Eleonor Du were the speakers for G6PD Deficiency and CH, respectively. Dr. Abarquez is a pediatric geneticist and unit head of NSC-Mindanao while Dr. Du is the only accredited pediatric endocrinologist in Mindanao and is head of the NBS Follow-up Team in Mindanao.

The activity was attended by 44 families from Cagayan De Oro City and other nearby provinces. Dr. Susan Dongallo, Chief of the CHD-10 Local Health Support Division, welcomed the participants. The forum was held to increase the parents' understanding on G6PD deficiency and congenital hypothyroidism and help them cope up with their children's disorder. At the end of the forum, parents expressed heartfelt gratitude to CHD-10 for organizing such an enriching activity. - *P Bermudez*

## 58 newborns at Luis Hora Hospital are 100% screened

by Juliet B. Saley

(PIA Press Release, Thursday, April 28, 2011)

BAUKO, Mt. Province, April 28 (PIA) -- Parents are now becoming more aware of the importance of newborn screening with the all parents of 158 babies born at Luis Hora Memorial Hospital (LHMH) in Abatan, Bauko here during the first quarter allowing their newborn babies screened for a 100 percent rate.



Rachel Benito of the LHMH reported during the Provincial Health Board meeting that aside from the 158 total live births at the hospital for the first quarter of this year who were all screened, nine babies delivered at home also underwent newborn screening.

Newborn screening is a process of testing newborn babies to find out if babies have congenital metabolic disorder that may lead to mental retardation and even death if left untreated.

After delivery, health care providers recommend that babies undergo newborn screening tests to detect any metabolic, endocrine, genetic, and hematologic conditions that can affect the growth of newborn babies which is usually done within 24 - 72 days after delivery.

The newborn screening aims to give all newborns a chance to live a normal life. It provides the opportunity for early treatment of diseases that are diagnosed before symptoms appear. Included in the panel of disorders under the Philippine Newborn Screening Program are Congenital Hypothyroidism, Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase Deficiency, Galactosemia, and Phenylketonuria.

Benito bared that of the total newborn screened, four babies had positive results, one of which was positive with Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia. Parents of this baby were advised to have their baby treated by an endocrinologist for further evaluation. Three other babies were positive with Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase Deficiency. Parents were advised to observe proper diet for their babies, not to give the foods which are prohibited, and also medicines which the babies should not take. \*(JDP/JBS- PIA CAR, Mt. Province)

## NSC Central Luzon

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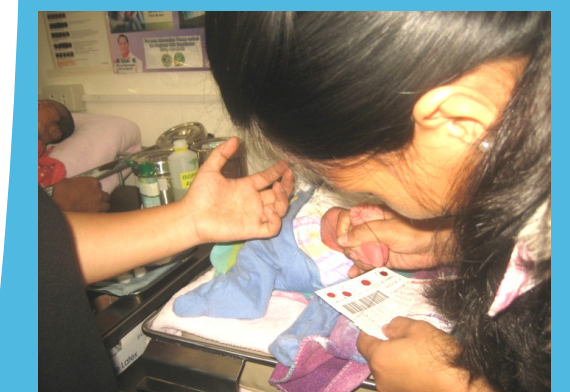
## CAR Health Practitioners Join NBS Retraining

As of this writing, 57 newborn screening facilities (NSFs) all over the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) screen newborns for the five metabolic conditions included in the Newborn Screening Panel of Disorders. In order to keep the facilities up-to-date on issues and enhance their capability in performing NBS in their localities, the Center for Health Development-CAR conducted a training and seminar on 25-26 May 2011 at Highland Villa Hotel, Baguio City.

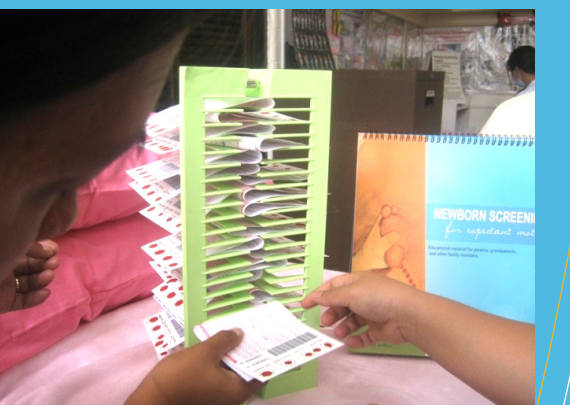
The training aimed to ensure that health practitioners were aware of the advantages of newborn screening, not to mention the security they bring to families, and that they were well-equipped in promoting and offering NBS as part of their responsibilities to the people they serve. - *J Rillorta*



Newborn Screening participants and facilitators after the training.



Actual pricking and collection of blood sample from a newborn.



Actual drying of filter cards after collection.