

Frequently Asked Questions on the Expanded NBS

What is expanded newborn screening?

The expanded newborn screening program will increase the screening panel of disorders from six (6) to twenty-eight (28). This will provide opportunities to significantly improve the quality of life of affected newborns through facilitating early diagnosis and early treatment.

What are the additional disorders tested by expanded newborn screening?

Aside from the six conditions in the present panel—Congenital Hypothyroidism, Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, Galactosemia, Phenylketonuria, Maple Syrup Urine Disease, and Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase deficiency—expanded newborn screening will screen for additional disorders falling under various groups of conditions, namely, hemoglobinopathies, disorders of amino acid and organic acid metabolism, disorders of fatty acid oxidation, disorders of carbohydrate metabolism, disorders of biotin metabolism, and cystic fibrosis.

How much is the fee for expanded newborn screening?

Expanded newborn screening will be offered as an option to parents in all newborn screening facilities. The first option is screening for the six disorders at P550, which is included in the newborn care package for PhilHealth members, and the second option is screening for the full complement of 28 disorders at P1,500.

Is expanded screening covered by PhilHealth?

Currently, only P550 is covered by PhilHealth. If the parent who is a PhilHealth member opts to have his or her baby undergo expanded newborn screening, the parent will pay the remaining cost which is P950.

What should be done when a baby is tested positive for expanded NBS?

A positive newborn screen does not mean that the baby has the disorder. It simply screens for babies who are more likely to have one of these disorders. The presence of an abnormal screening test result warrants additional tests and/or a referral to a specialist to confirm whether or not

NBS Awareness Week Celebration Around Metro Manila



Above: Mass screening held at Rizal Medical Center on October 24, 2014, sponsored by the Zonta Club of Greater Rizal and Inner Wheel Clubs of the Philippines, Inc. Below: Mass screening held at Novaliches District Hospital on October 17, 2014.



the infant really has the disorder.

How will our facility purchase kits for newborn screening?

Health facilities will follow the usual process of ordering. The total number of kits to be procured should be specified. There are two kinds of Newborn Screening Kits: the NBS 6 tests (P550) and the Expanded Newborn Screening (P1,500). The filter cards included in both kits look similar, but the filter card for the expanded screening will have a label that indicates it is for expanded screen. The two kinds of filter cards are not interchangeable.

NBS Awareness Campaigns in the Visayas



Above: Jane Alcomendras of VYLH-Cebu discusses Integrated Health Education on TB Control, Folic Acid Campaign, and Newborn Screening Awareness at Brgy. Campangga, Barili, Cebu, on October 13, 2014, during the Family Development Session (FDS) to the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) members.



Above: Around 150 graduating students of Negros Occidental High School participate in the Advocacy Forum by VYLH-Philippines on September 29, 2014, in celebration of the Newborn Screening Month. The celebration was headed by VYLH-Bacolod Chapter Coordinator Israel Salanga.



Left: VYLH-Dumaguete observes NBS Month with a door-to-door campaign at Brgy. Canday-ong, Dumaguete City, on October 6, 2014.

VYLH-Visayas Secretariat Floyd Edrea, Jordan Ramirez, Zaphire Zamudio, John Paul Oira, Salima Jamal, and Jerry Aguylo facilitate the Education on Newborn Screening, Folic Acid Supplementation, and Rare Disease Support to the more than 600 fourth year students of Bayawan National High School on September 23, 2014.

More photos on page 6 . . .

IN FOCUS

MHO Banaybanay

By Angela Rovie A. Villareal and Rhodoradel Campo

Banaybanay is a second-class municipality in the province of Davao Oriental. According to the 2010 census, it has a population of 35,714 people in 6,448 households. Besides its peaceful and simple countryside living, Banaybanay is also proud that its Municipal Health Office has built *Paanakan*, a birthing home facility, and that for two years, it is the only municipality in the province to have three accreditations from PhilHealth.

Banaybanay Municipal Health Office's *Paanakan*, as its name implies, receives expectant mothers and offers delivery, immediate post-partum, and newborn care. Also, not only does *Paanakan* cater to Banaybanay residents, but it also serves those from neighboring municipalities. However, *Paanakan* does not carry all the load; some mothers are referred to Lupon District Hospital, a few kilometers away from Banaybanay.

On its official opening day on August 10, 2010, the Banaybanay Municipal Health Office's *Paanakan* had already recorded a steady rise in the number of patients who chose to deliver in the facility. But before the charts were filled with positive statistics, health personnel tried to pull mothers away from the traditional *hilot* and offered free delivery services, including newborn screening test, at the *Paanakan*.

The successful Banaybanay's *Paanakan* was the initiative of the Municipal Health Officer, Dr. Nemesia Andoy, who had the full support of Mayor Pedro T. Mejos and Representative

Continued on page 7 . . .

GYM Maternity Home Conducts G6PD Lay Forum

To join the nationwide celebration of NBS Week, George Y. Yabes (GYM) Maternity Home organized the G6PD Lay Forum in Maitum, Sarangani, on October 17, 2014.

Spearheaded by Rosalina Roxas and Dr. Junie F. Basmillo, Municipal Health Officer, the activity was attended by 50 participants and helped educate parents and families on the G6PD Deficiency disorder. During the forum, Dr. Conchita Abaquez, pedia-geneticist and the Unit Head of Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao, also corrected some of the common misconceptions about the disorder.

Apart from promoting parents' education, GYM Maternity Home also proved its support to G6PD confirmatory testing of indigent patients by conducting free 15 G6PD confirmatory testings that day. *P. Bermudez*

DOH-RO IX Holds Series of Cluster Meetings

To promote expanded newborn screening (ENBS) program in southern Philippines, the Department of Health-Regional Office (DOH-RO) IX, in coordination with the Newborn Screening Center (NSC)-Mindanao, held a series of Cluster Meetings with the Newborn Screening Facilities (NSFs) in the different provinces and cities of Zamboanga Peninsula.

The Cluster Meeting for NSFs in Zamboanga City and Isabela City was held on September 12, 2014, in Zamboanga City with 32 participants, while for Zamboanga del Sur, the Cluster Meeting was held on September 23 in Pagadian City and had 45 participants.

The Cluster Meeting for NSFs in Zamboanga Sibugay was conducted on September 25 in Ipi, Zamboanga Sibugay, with 26 participants, while the Cluster Meeting for NSFs in Zamboanga del Norte will be held in Dipolog City on November 4 and will be attended by 45 participants.

Reports gathered by NSC-Mindanao showed that the

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NBS Awareness Week Celebration Up North

In celebration of the Newborn Screening (NBS) Week, the North and Central Luzon Clusters prepared series of activities to promote the program to the public and conducted series of trainings to better implement NBS.

G6PD Seminar. In the Ilocos Region, the Department of Health-Regional Office (DOH-RO) I, in partnership with the Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center (ITRMC) Newborn Screening Continuity Clinic and the Newborn Screening Center-Central Luzon (NSC-CL), conducted the Second Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency Seminar and Forum at the DOH Regional Office Conference Room on October 8, 2014.

The activity heightened the awareness of parents on how to decrease the occurrence of hemolytic crisis through proper identification of drugs, foods, and chemicals that may affect G6PD deficient patients. The seminar also empowered families through the formation of a support group.

Free NBS Kits. Moreover, DOH-RO I and NSC-CL partnered in the filter card distribution during the NBS Awareness Week. The following health facilities received free NBS kits for indigent patients: City Health Office, San Fernando City, La Union; Bayambang District Hospital; Region 1 Medical Center; and Rosales RHU, Villasis RHU, Dona Corazon Maternity and Lying-in Clinic.

Meanwhile, in the Cagayan Valley region, DOH-RO Region II and NSC-CL distributed NBS kits to indigent patients. The following provinces received free NBS kits: Cagayan, Isabela,



Batanes, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino.

Cluster Meetings. In Region III, NSC-CL conducted NBS Cluster Meetings with newborn screening facilities (NSFs). On October 14, 2014, 44 participants from 21 NSFs from Bataan, Pampanga, Zambales, Aurora, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Bulacan attended the Cluster Meeting, while on October 15, 44 participants from 25 NSFs from Bulacan, Pampanga, and Bataan met with NSC-CL.

NBS Training. NSC-CL also conducted NBS Training for NSFs in Bataan, Pampanga, Zambales, Aurora, Pampanga, Tarlac, and Bulacan on October 7 and 8.

Over at the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), DOH-CAR and NSC-CL held NBS Training for the Local Government Unit's health workers to give updates and discuss Expanded NBS. The training was divided into two batches: the first on October 1-2 and the second on October 2-3 at the Prince Plaza Hotel.

Parents of G6PD deficient patients from La Union attended the G6PD Deficiency Seminar and Forum. DOH-RO I also plans to replicate the forum to the other provinces in the region.

Trimedia Campaign. DOH-CAR and NSC-CL also organized *Kapihan*, a trimedia campaign held in the first week of October including interviews with Dr. Eleonor Cuarte on Sunstar, Bombo Radyo, and ABS-CBN Baguio on the various topics, including the importance of NBS, updates, statistics, and status of NBS in the region.

There were also radio commercials on the DZWT radio station that aired NBS ads daily for the month of October.



Above: WVSUMC and NSC-Visayas hold NBS Awareness Campaign at the WVSUMC on October 7, 2014.

Above: VYLH National President Christian Emmanuel Enriquez is guest speaker at Velez College in Cebu on October 4, 2014, to talk about Youth Empowerment on Health, highlighting the VYLH-Philippines network and its advocacies.



Above: GMA's show Arangkada tapes its episode on newborn screening on October 2, 2014.

Left: Participants and organizers during the NBS Reorientation for Negros Oriental and Siquijor at the Plaza Maria Suites, Dumaguete City, on October 15-16, 2014.

Below: Department of Health-Regional Office VI and Newborn Screening Center-Visayas hold Reunion of Saved Babies for Panay and Guimaras Islands at Sarabia Manor Hotel, Iloilo City, on October 24, 2014.



MHO Banaybanay . . . from p. 4

Thelma Z. Almario. But the success came only after overcoming a hurdle anchored to tradition.

In the past, mothers called for the services of a traditional birth attendant, or a *manghilot*, to deliver their babies. But after the local government passed Municipal Ordinance 2010-02, or the Banaybanay Birthing Home Ordinance, health personnel soon encouraged mothers, their families, and the community to take the road to *Paanakan*.



RHU Banaybanay staff with Mayor Pedro T. Mejos

DOH-RO IX Holds . . . from p. 4

number of NSFs in the Zamboanga Peninsula had increased, but NBS coverage still fell short of the target coverage set by the DOH, which is at 85%.

In 2010, the national NBS coverage reached 35%, which is 7% higher than that in 2009. Zamboanga Peninsula reported NBS coverage of 38.10% in 2012 and 44.68% in 2013. As a

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result, DOH-RO IX along with NSC-Mindanao identified the impediments that hampered the achievement of the target NBS coverage.

The Cluster Meetings provided a good venue for the resolution of program issues and concerns as well as updates and developments on the NBS program. *AJCalibot and PBermudez*



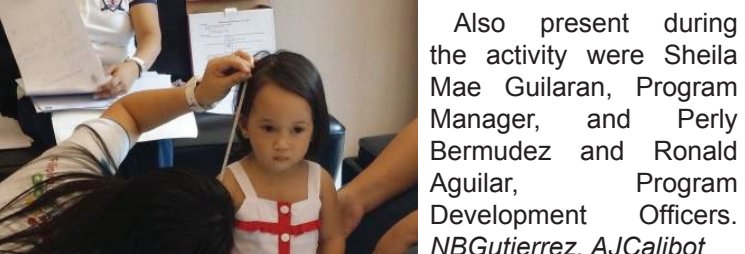
Participants and organizers of Zamboanga Peninsula Cluster Meetings (clockwise from top left): Zamboanga City and Isabela City Cluster, Zamboanga Del Sur Cluster, Zamboanga Del Norte Cluster, Zamboanga Sibugay Cluster

First Child Health Forum in Zamboanga Peninsula

The Department of Health-Regional Office (DOH-RO) IX in coordination with the Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao held its First Child Health Forum for Parents of Confirmed Patients of CH & G6PD Deficiency at Grand Astoria Hotel, Zamboanga City, on September 11, 2014.

While the event coincided with the first anniversary of the Zamboanga siege, the active participation of the patients and their parents still showed how the newborn screening program had been well-received in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Head of Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao, and Dr. Eleonor Du, pediatric endocrinologist from Southern Philippines Medical Center, Davao City, comprised the panel who responded to the questions and concerns of the parents. Dr. Du also conducted free check-up and consultation on confirmed Congenital Hypothyroidism patients who attended the event.



Also present during the activity were Sheila Mae Guilaran, Program Manager, and Perly Bermudez and Ronald Aguilar, Program Development Officers. *NBGutierrez, AJCalibot*

Health personnel attend to a child participant during the free check-up and consultation after the Child Health Forum.

MINDANAO NEWS BRIEFS

Community Outreach Programs in Davao City

The Newborn Screening Center (NSC)-Mindanao organized a series of newborn screening (NBS) community outreach programs at different areas in Davao City: Barangay Mintal on October 2, Barangay Bunawan on October 3, and Barangay Tibungco on October 13. Each event was attended by more than 200 expecting mothers, indigents, barangay officials, and healthcare frontliners.

The Annual Reunion of Saved Babies was held at the NCCC Mall, Matina, Davao City, on October 4. The reunion was attended by some 137 families, who enjoyed mascots' performances, bubble shows, and games.

NSC-Mindanao led the celebration of the NBS Awareness Week through film-showing, brochure campaign, radio promotions at DXRR 1017, and lectures on NBS at OB wards and out-patient clinics in various hospitals. *SGuilaran, PBermudez, ARVillareal*

NBS Fun Run in Cagayan de Oro City

To promote newborn screening and raise funds for the confirmatory tests of indigent patients, the Department of Health-Regional Office X organized the Fun Run for Newborn Screening on October 19. Around 700 participated in three categories: 500 meters for children 3-5 years old and 3 kilometers and 5 kilometers for teens and adults. Winners of the fun run received certificates and free newborn screening kits for donation to their own respective barangays. The list of winners is posted at www.newbornscreening.ph. *GJacot*

General Santos City Revs Up NBS Activities

The Department of Health-Regional Office (DOH-RO) XII kicked off its activities for Newborn Screening Awareness Campaign on October 17 with a motorcade around General Santos City. Afterward, the Opening Ceremony was held at

Robinson's Place General Santos City where City Health Officer Dr. Edgardo R. Sandig, City Mayor Ronnel C. Rivera, and Director Teogenes F. Baluma shared their messages and statements of support to newborn screening. Around 300 participants from private lying-ins, government and private hospitals, barangay councils, and schools joined the event. A Ceremonial Newborn Screening was then held at MAP Lying-In Center.

Later that month, DOH-RO XII conducted the Congenital Hypothyroidism and G6PD Deficiency Parents Fora on October 22 and the Program Implementation Review for NSF's on October 23-24. Both events were held at Family Country Hotel, General Santos City. *CChua*

NBS Refresher Training in Surigao City


To decrease the numbers of rejected and insufficient samples and strengthen its local newborn screening (NBS) coverage, DOH-RO CARAGA held the Newborn Screening Refresher Training for the NBS staff in Dinagat Islands and Siargao Islands at Almont Beach Resort, Lipata, Surigao City, on October 16-17. A total of 32 participants—16 midwives, 10 nurses, 4 medical technologists, and 2 medical officers—attended the said activity, where NSC-Mindanao Head, Dr. Conchita Abarquez, presented the status of NBS in CARAGA. NBS facility protocol was also reviewed by Amerah Matuan and Ronald Aguilar, while Perly Bermudez presented the common errors in handling and collecting blood samples. *NMontilla*

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If you would like to write an article, please contact us at info@newbornscreening.ph. We will do our best to keep you informed about current and relevant newborn screening issues.



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NATIONAL
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 WEEK

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Philippines Celebrates Newborn Screening Awareness Week

On January 20, 2004, by virtue of Proclamation No. 540, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared the first week of October as the National Newborn Screening Awareness Week, mobilizing the Department of Health (DOH) and its partners to organize activities that promote the newborn screening program.

Started as early as September, this year's celebration lasted until the end of October. The Newborn Screening Centers (NSCs), DOH-Regional Offices, Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC), and Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH) in partnership with various program advocates conducted local and nationwide activities to increase public awareness on the benefits of newborn screening.

VYLH started the celebration in the Visayas region with the education on Newborn Screening, Folic Acid Supplementation and Rare Disease Support conducted at Bayawan and Negros Occidental High Schools. Other activities in the region included the feature on the GMA show *Arangkada* and Radyong Bayan on October 2 and door-to-door brochure distribution to residents of Brgy. Canday-ong, Dumaguete City, headed by VYLH-Dumaguete on October 6, among others.

In southern Philippines, highlights included a series of community outreach programs organized by NSC-Mindanao and DOH-ROs and a fun run in Cagayan de Oro City.

Up north, a series of activities included filter card distribution to newborn screening facilities, parents' fora, NBS trainings, and a trimedia campaign. In Metro Manila, the NSC-NIH and DOH-NCR held a mass screening in Novaliches District Hospital and Rizal Medical Center on October 17 and October 24, respectively, while the 12th National Newborn Screening Convention with the theme "Widening the Scope: Implementing the Expanded Newborn Screening Program" was held on October 28 and 29.

Number of Babies Screened as of October 2014 COUNTER: 6,001,658