



NATIONAL CAPITAL
REGION OFFICE

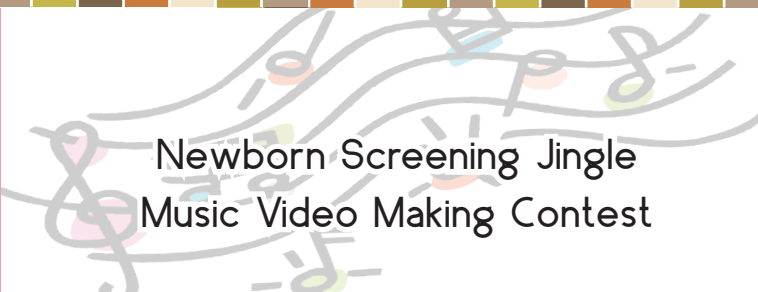
NEWBORN SCREENING JINGLE VIDEO MAKING COMPETITION

First Place: **Php40,000.00**
Second Place: **Php30,000.00**
Third Place: **Php20,000.00**

Open to all college students
from colleges and universities
in the **National Capital Region.**

For further details and clarifications, please contact:
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Newborn Screening Program Coordinators
Department of Health – National Capital Regional Office
Blk. 6 Barangay Road Welfareville, Cpd. Bgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City
(02) 532-0021, 531-0027, 531-0034 local 105

fb.com/newbornscreeningnrcr nbsdohncr@hotmail.com



The Department of Health–National Capital Regional Office is giving college students the chance to showcase their creativity by creating a music video of the newborn screening jingle, *Blessing Ka, Baby!*

To join, request for a copy of the jingle by sending an email to nbs.dohncr@hotmail.com. Then, make a music video based on your interpretation of the jingle. Submit your music video in a CD or DVD on or before 5:00 p.m. of **March 25, 2016**, to:

**Department of Health–National Capital Regional Office
Blk. 6 Barangay Road Welfare Compound,
Barangay Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City
Tel. Nos: 531-0021, 531-0027, 531-0034 local 105**

Cash prizes await the top three music videos! First place: P40,000.00; second place: P30,000.00; third place: P20,000.00.

Hurry! Join now!

G6PD Centers to Open in Tacloban and Oriental Mindoro

Two new G6PD Confirmatory Centers will be opened by September: one in Tacloban and another in Oriental Mindoro. The G6PD Confirmatory Centers will now total to 22 facilities all over the country.

The table below lists all the 22 facilities with their respective addresses and contact numbers.

G6PD CONFIRMATORY CENTER	ADDRESS	CONTACT NUMBER
1. ADVENTIST HOSPITAL - SANTIAGO CITY INC.	Mabini, Santiago City,	(0781) 305-0161, 376-0214
2. ANGELES UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION MEDICAL CENTER	Mac Arthur Hi-way, Angeles City	(045) 625-2999 loc 2888, (045) 625-2924
3. BATANGAS MEDICAL CENTER	Kumintang Ibaba, Batangas City	(043) 980-1738
4. BRENT HOSPITAL AND COLLEGES INC.	R.T. Lim Blvd. Zamboanga City	(062) 992-5996
5.5. CAGAYAN DE ORO POLYMEDIC MEDICAL PLAZA	National Highway, Kauswagan, Cagayan De Oro City	(088) 858-5858 loc 1080/1083
6. CEBU DOCTORS' UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL	Osmeña Boulevard Capitol Site, Cebu City	(032) 255-5555 loc 122
7. DAVAO MEDICAL SCHOOL FOUNDATION, INC.	DMSF Drive, Bajada, Davao City	(082) 227-9330 loc 1143
8. DR. PABLO O. TORRE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	BS Aquino Drive, Bacolod City	(034) 705-0000 loc 3115

9. EASTERN VISAYAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	Magsaysay Boulevard, Tacloban City	(053) 832-0308
10. GENERAL SANTOS DOCTORS HOSPITAL	National Highway, General Santos City	(083) 250-2777
11. ILOCOS TRAINING AND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	Parian, San Fernando City, La Union	(072) 607-6422, 607-6418
12. LA VINA GENERAL HOSPITAL, INC.	L. Alkuiro St., Valencia City, Bukidnon	(088) 222-2967
13. LIPA MEDIX MEDICAL CENTER	Ayala Highway, Balintawak, Lipa City	(043) 756-2372
14. LUNA GOCO MEDICAL CENTER	JP Rizal St., Lalud, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro	09228905493, (043) 288-2473
15. MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER	Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City	(02) 888-8999 loc 3028
16. MANILA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY-FILEMON D. TANCHO MEDICAL FOUNDATION HOSPITAL	EDSA, Caloocan City	(02) 363-3084
17. MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER	San Julian, Batac, Ilocos Norte	(077) 600-0105, 792-2403
18. MAYOR HILARION A. RAMIRO SR., REGIONAL TRAINING AND TEACHING HOSPITAL	Maningcol, Ozamiz City	(088) 521-0440
19. OUR LADY OF LOURDES HOSPITAL EAST MANILA MANAGERS CORP.	46 P. Sanchez St., Sta. Mesa Manila	(02) 716-3901 loc 3513
20. TAGUM DOCTORS HOSPITAL	Highway 5A, Babe Subd., Tagum City	(084) 655-6747, 400-1353
21. THE MEDICAL CITY	Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City, Metro Manila	(02) 635-6789 loc 6124
22. UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP DALTA MEDICAL CENTER	Alabang Zapote Rd. Pampolan, La Pifas City	(02) 874-8515 loc 153

For Visayas
West Visayas State University
Medical Center
E. Lopez St., Jaro, Iloilo City
Telefax: (033) 329-3744
Email: nscvis@gmail.com

NSC-Visayas and NSC-Mindanao Obtain Re-Accreditation

The Newborn Screening Center (NSC)–Visayas and NSC-Mindanao underwent the Department of Health (DOH) re-accreditation on August 17-19 and 18-21, 2015, respectively. The re-accreditation team was composed of international experts and local evaluators on newborn screening.

Only NSCs duly accredited by DOH based on the standards and procedural guidelines approved by the Advisory Committee on Newborn Screening (ACNBS) as enumerated in the RA 9288 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) are allowed to operate in the country. All NSCs undergo re-accreditation every three years.

As part of this year's re-accreditation, NSC-Visayas and NSC-Mindanao, headed by Dr. J Edgar Winston Posecion and Dr. Conchita Abarquez, respectively, presented a three-year program update on the status and developments of the program.

NSC-Visayas

NSC-Visayas has been preparing for the Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS). It started accepting ENBS samples in February 2015. As of July 2015, there were 52 health facilities in the Visayas region offering ENBS. Dr. Posecion reported that by July 2015, all previously confirmed patients from 2006 to April 2014 have been fully endorsed to their respective NBS Continuity Clinics. He presented to the evaluators the plans of the center for the next 12 months, among which are intensifying advocacy, conducting ENBS orientations in key cities, and hiring of additional personnel



NSC-Visayas staff strike a pose with accreditors. The evaluators seating from left to right: Jovy Ann Casamorin; Maria Truda Escoreal; Charity Jomanto of NSRC; Dr. Bradford Therrell of National Newborn Screening and Global Resource Center (NNSGRC) in Texas, USA; Dr. Veronica Catherine Wiley of New South Wales Newborn Screening Program in Australia; Dr. J Edgar Winston Posecion, Unit Head of NSC-Visayas; Dr. Alpha Grace Cabac, Laboratory Manager of NSC-NIH; and Dr. Anna Victoria Sombong, Laboratory Manager of NSC-Visayas.



NSC-Mindanao staff pose with the international accreditors after the re-accreditation program. Standing fifth from the left, front row, is Dr. Veronica Catherine Wiley of New South Wales Newborn Screening Program in Australia, followed by Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Unit Head of NSC-Mindanao; Dr. Bradford Therrell of National Newborn Screening and Global Resource Center (NNSGRC) in Texas, USA; and Dr. Leopoldo Vega, Medical Director of SPMC. Behind Dr. Therrell and Dr. Vega are Ms. Lita Orbillo of DOH and Dr. Maria Melanie Liberty Alcausin, Director of NSRC, respectively.

to improve efficiency of operations.

Dr. Anna Victoria Sombong, laboratory manager, gave an overview on the laboratory setup. She presented the update on the preparations for ENBS, training activities completed, and problems encountered. The evaluators commended the center for having a committed, dedicated, and loyal staff and for its satisfactory performance.

NSC-Mindanao

Meanwhile, the pre-evaluation program was conducted in NSC-Mindanao, which was attended by the facility's medical director, Dr. Vega. Dr. Abarquez highlighted the improvement in the process, workflow, and activities initiated by the center to improve its performance. She also remarked how the Mindanao Cluster had increased its coverage, especially now that the top three performing regions in terms of coverage were from Mindanao. Mr. Badong, laboratory manager, gave an overview on the laboratory setup and reported that the center already have machines for hemoglobinopathies. NSC-Mindanao was commended for its materials, best practices, and initiatives as well as for the dedication of the staff.

The evaluators, for their part, noted some findings such as delay in the implementation of the ENBS and some issues on administrative support and storage of reagents and supplies, which would present challenges to ENBS.

Overall, both centers were certified and may continue their operations, but they would also have to adhere to the recommendations of the evaluation team to ensure continuous development of the centers. JACasamorin

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4Ps Members Learn About NBS

Spearheaded by Davao City's Department of Social Welfare and Development, a series of Family Development Sessions (FDS) was held from August 3 to September 13, 2015, for members of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the different districts of the city.

Newborn Screening Center–Mindanao (NSC-M) presented newborn screening, one of the various topics in the FDS. Newborn screening brochures in Tagalog and in local language were given to members, and NBS posters were displayed around the area. Other topics discussed were expanded newborn screening, folic acid supplementation, birth defects, prematurity campaign, and breastfeeding.

Already running in Davao City for five years, 4Ps sets monthly attendance in the FDS as a requirement for membership. The 4Ps also help the Philippine government fulfill its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, and improving maternal health care, among others. *Atadlas*

NBS at IMAP-Mindanao Summit

Coming from the different regions in Mindanao, 207 midwives convened at the Molave Hotel, Tagum City, Davao Del Norte, for the 34th Annual Regional Summit of the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP)–Mindanao Sulu Confederation on July 17-18, 2015.

Themed "The Road to the World: Midwives Walking for a Lifetime," the summit helped to better promote newborn screening and strengthen linkages with different stakeholders in the region. Newborn Screening Center–Mindanao supported the event by running a booth exhibit.

Midwives are usually the first line of contact to parents; *Continued on page 8 . . .*



The NBS desk at the IMAP Summit

IN FOCUS

Sulu Provincial Hospital Offers ENBS

by Maria Lilybeth Tantoco-Usama, MD, DPSS

The Sulu Provincial Hospital (SPH) started advocacy campaign on the Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS) Program as early as last year's lectures for the Newborn Screening Awareness Day Celebration on October 7, 2014.

When ENBS kits became available in February 2015 in Mindanao, the SPH NBS Staff immediately met with Provincial Health Officer Dr. Farah Tan-Omar, and she promptly approved its implementation. The NBS staff also spoke with the staff from different wards to introduce the new service that SPH will soon implement. They were given a printed copy of frequently asked questions regarding ENBS so they could easily explain ENBS to expecting parents who will deliver in their wards. From then on, it became a one-on-one advocacy of the hospital staff to the parents, usually during and after the delivery of the babies.

On March 6, 2015, SPH officially launched its ENBS program. Many parents of patients, specifically those who already had newborn screening done on their other children, opted for ENBS instead of the usual six-panel test. Also, parents whose children had been diagnosed to have thalassemia, which has high incidence in Sulu, were easily convinced.

Continued on page 8 . . .



Dr. Farah Tan-Omar (standing), Provincial Health Officer of the Province of Sulu

For Regions I, II, III & CAR
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Banco De Nueve Revives Bamboo Coin Banks

The Municipal Health Office and local officials of Peñarrubia, a sixth class municipality in the province of Abra, introduced Banco De Nueve, a community-based financing scheme project, in January 2014.

The project, which was put up with the assistance of the Department of Health–Cordillera Administrative Regional Office, would help provide effective and efficient maternal and child health services in Peñarrubia.

To make the project work, the Community Health Teams (CHTs), who are in-charge of pregnancy tracking of all pregnant women who are members of the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction (NHTS-PR) (and non-NHTS-PR beneficiaries as well), would encourage pregnant mothers to go to the Rural Health Unit (RHU) for prenatal visits.

All pregnant mothers are enrolled during the first prenatal checkup at the RHU. Each pregnant woman is then provided with an *alkansya* (coin bank) made out of bamboo where family, relatives, friends, and community members would drop any amount of money daily. They are also issued a daily account card for the recording of the deposits, which are checked daily or weekly by the members and team leader of the CHT assigned in the barangay.

The account card has a duplicate at the RHU, which is updated and monitored monthly by the Public Health Nurse based on the report of the CHT team leader or during follow-up visits of the pregnant woman. This would ensure that the amount indicated in the birth plan of the family health diary is deposited regularly.

The *alkansya* is kept by the expectant mother during the whole duration of pregnancy and is only opened right



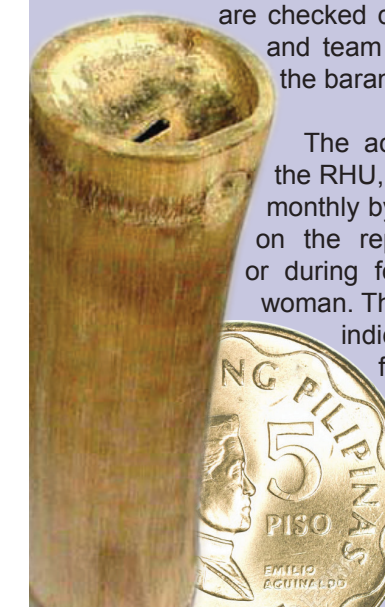
An expectant mother holds her Banco De Nueve bamboo coin bank as a member of the Community Health Team checks her "account" updates.

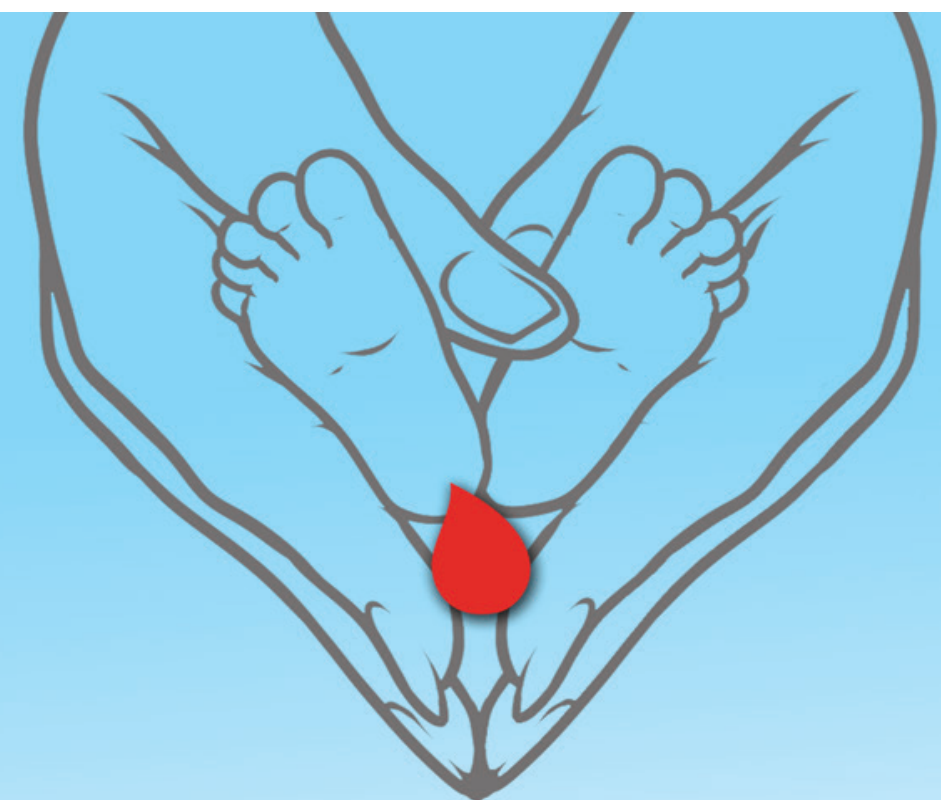
after delivery. The usual savings of mothers ranges from one thousand to eight thousand pesos depending on the start of prenatal checkup. The saved amount is intended to finance childbirth expenses, especially newborn screening or expanded newborn screening of babies delivered at the RHU and other health facilities outside the municipality and as a contingency fund for possible confirmatory testing should the baby be positively screened from any disorder in the panel.

Project Banco de Nueve increased the performance of the health services by up to 89% in the prenatal and postpartum care, 100% in facility-based deliveries, and 100% in newborn screening coverage in 2014 for the babies of the mothers residing in the municipality.

From January to June 2015, all livebirths in Peñarrubia RHU and in other health facilities were screened (80% traditional newborn screening and 20% expanded newborn screening). In addition, the value of sharing and the importance of saving are promoted and instilled among community members.

Banco De Nueve is now replicated in Villaviciosa and Pilar, Abra. VNarciso





THE
FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER
IS
NATIONAL
**NEWBORN
SCREENING
WEEK**

#NBSsaves #ENBSph



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Institute of Human Genetics • Newborn Screening Reference Center - National Institutes of Health
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**Enhancing Newborn Care,
Nurturing Minds,
Brightening the Future and
Saving Lives**



13th NEWBORN SCREENING CONVENTION
FIESTA PAVILION, MANILA HOTEL
OCTOBER 6-7, 2015

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**Continuity Clinic Nurses
Undergo CCORS Training**

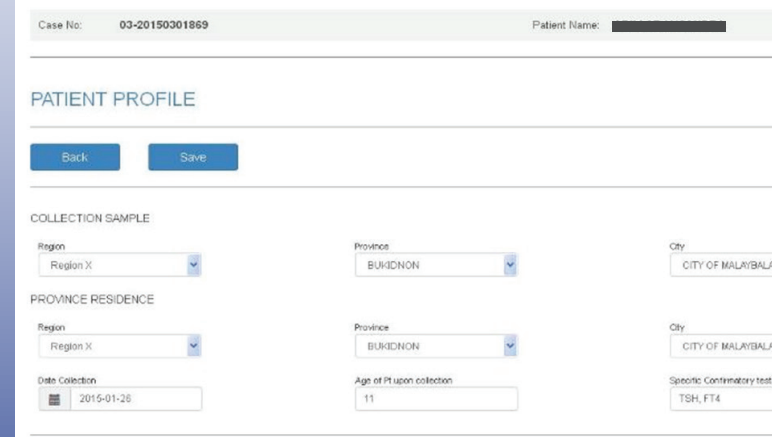
Continuity clinic nurses attended a training seminar on Continuity Clinic Online Record System (CCORS) at the Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC) Conference Room at the UP Ayala Land Technohub on July 30, 2015.

CCORS is computer program developed by NSRC to address the need for an efficient data management for the long-term follow-up team.

CCORS consolidates all information about patients with confirmed disorders—from their demographic profile, pertinent history, physical findings, laboratory test results, medications taken, and work-ups done to impressions including doctors' and nurses' notes and general and specific plans for the patient. These information will be readily accessible online and will serve as the backbone for the daily operations of the continuity clinics and their monthly conference case audits.

The one-day seminar allowed hands-on usage of CCORS and helped intended users to understand and attain independent usage of the system, provide a venue to generate feedback from the participants, and discuss corrective measures to address issues and concerns.

CCORS represents an innovative approach in long-term follow-up. With the software already live, continuity clinic nurses could now harness the features of CCORS to improve the delivery of healthcare to their patients. With the growing number of patients with confirmed disorders and the advent of expanded newborn screening, CCORS has complemented the task of improving the long-term follow-up component in order to achieve the full public health benefit of the newborn screening program. *FBeltran*



Screenshot of the CCORS interface that users would be able to see when updating patients' records.

**NBSCC-Region 10 Hold First
CH and G6PD Deficiency
Forum**

The Newborn Screening Continuity Clinic (NBSCC) of Region 10 held a forum to discuss the genetic and clinical aspects of Congenital Hypothyroidism and Glucose-6-Phosphate-Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency at the Northern Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC) on July 9, 2015.

Attended by 27 CH and 22 G6PD patients, the forum was opened by Dr. Patricia V. Gaid, Chairman of the Pediatrics Department. Dr. Mabel Antonio, pediatric consultant, introduced special guest Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao Unit Head. The forum's speakers were Dr. Eleonor C. Du, pediatric endocrinologist and consultant in SPMC Davao, for CH, and Dr. Fernando Douglas A. Go, a pediatric haematologist of NMMC, for G6PD.

Participants were able to ask questions during the open forum where Apple Dowannie Tadlas and Ronald Aguilar were the moderators. Consultations for the CH patients were conducted before and after the program. Dr. Gaid also invited additional experts, namely, Dr. Jannie Lyne Palisbo, Dr. Francis Ramos, and Dr. Usha Dahal, to accommodate all the patients.

The forum was supported by the Department of Health-Regional Office 10, which was represented by Angela Balansag, Gil Samante, and Justin Yuson. *ORCabading*

NBS at IMAP . . . from page 4

hence, they are one of newborn screening's strong partners in promoting the program. With their help, information on newborn screening, contained in education and campaign materials, were shared with the attendees who, in turn, will share what they have learned once they get back to their respective facilities. *PBermudez*



Sulu . . . from page 4

By August 7, 2015, all municipalities in Sulu Province were informed about ENBS and its availability at SPH through the Newborn Screening Training of Trainers.

On October 1, 2015, SPH will be celebrating its own NBS Day and Reunion of Saved Babies. It will also include advocacy campaigns on ENBS in all eight hospitals in Sulu—one provincial, five district hospitals, and two municipal hospitals.

At present, SPH has already collected 26 samples for ENBS, with two babies positive for Hemoglobinopathy E trait. SPH still faces the challenge of convincing other parents to choose ENBS, especially those under financial constraints. With the help of God, and with the planned inclusion of ENBS into the PhilHealth Newborn Care Package, SPH is hopeful to improve its implementation.

Your Feedback Is Important to Us!

Thank you for reading our newsletters!

We would love to hear your feedback. Please let us know how we can improve our bimonthly newsletters by answering our feedback form at www.newbornscreening.ph.

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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**newborn
screening**

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National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila

**NSC-NIH Is Now
ISO 9001:2008 Certified**

TUV Rheinland Business Field Manager Ms. Manineth Pulido (leftmost) and Chief Operating Officer Mr. Tristan Arwen Loveres (second from left) hand over the ISO 9001:2008 plaque to University of the Philippines Manila Chancellor Carmencita Padilla (center), while Vice Chancellor for Research and NIH Executive Director Dr. Eva Marie Cutiongco-dela Paz (second from right) and IHG Executive Director Dr. Mary Ann Chiong look on.

The Institute of Human Genetics (IHG) was awarded the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2008 Certification in Quality Management, with the Quality Policy that states:

An internationally recognized center of excellence in genetics committed to quality research and services accessible to all Filipinos and the world using state-of-the-art and relevant technology.

The Newborn Screening Center-National Institutes of Health is one of the seven service units under the IHG, the other six being the Biochemical Genetics Laboratory, Clinical Genetics and Research Unit, Cytogenetics Laboratory, Microarray Core



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Laboratory, Molecular Genetics Laboratory, and Hemoglobinopathy Reference Unit. These units also conduct basic, applied, and translational genetic research.

The preparation and training of the staff were facilitated by Synergy at Work Training Services from December 2014 to February 2015, particularly on documentation, records management, and observance of timeliness of services. IHG's first certification was given by TÜV Rheinland and is valid until August 26, 2018. A simple ceremony to award the certification was held on August 28, 2015, at the UP Manila Social Hall. *JATerrado*

For the full story, please visit <http://www.upm.edu.ph/node/1575>.

Number of Babies Screened as of August 2015 COUNTER: 7,067,401