

Salud Bikolnon Awards Best NBS Implementers

Salud Bikolnon 2017, the seventh annual regional awarding ceremony for health program implementation, recognized this year's exemplary health facilities and various stakeholders who made distinguished performance in health service delivery in Legazpi City on December 8, 2016.

Some 300 local chief executives, health personnel, and representatives from partner agencies were present during the occasion.

The Best Implementers of Newborn Screening Program, one of the 14 awards, was divided into two categories: Best Rural Health Unit (RHU) and Best Local Government Unit (LGU) Hospital. The Best RHU was bagged by the Municipality of Sta. Magdalena, followed by Legazpi City and Municipality of Bulan, second and third places, respectively. Meanwhile, the Best LGU Hospital was awarded to Dr. Fernando B. Duran Sr. Memorial Hospital, while Eastern Bicol Medical Center and



Best LGU Hospital Category: Dr. Fernando B. Duran Sr. Memorial Hospital. Left to right: Mr. Dave Isidore Plopinio, Dr. Rita Mae C. Ang, ARD Ernie V. Vera, Sorsogon Governor Robert Lee Rodriguez, Dr. Edgar F. Garcia, Jr., Assistant Secretary Nestor F. Santiago, Jr., Dr. Renato B. Bolo, Jr., Dir. Ma. Angelita Cells, Salvacion E. Ballesteros, and Nilda Hagos.

Viga District Hospital got second and third, respectively. Each of the winners received PHP 100,000 for the first prize, PHP 85,000, for the second, and PHP 75,000 for the third.

Presenting the plaques and checks to the winners were Dr. Nestor F. Santiago, Jr., Assistant Secretary of Health for Field Implementation Management; Ms. Ma. Angelita C. Cells, Regional Director at the Department of Budget and Management; Dr. Arnulfo Carandang, Local Health Support Division Head; Dr. Rita Mae C. Ang, Family Health Cluster Head; and Mr. Dave Isidore Plopinio, NBS Program Manager.

In his message during the program, Assistant Secretary Santiago emphasized the partnership of national government agencies, local government units, and non-government organizations in attaining the current health agenda.

MIMAROPA NSF's Meet for ENBS Training

The Department of Health-Regional Office (DOH-RO) 4B conducted a stakeholders meeting for both government and private newborn screening facilities (NSFs) in Palawan held at the Dolce Vita Hotel and Restaurant, Puerto Princesa City, on December 13-14, 2016.

The activity provided program implementers with updated information on the Expanded Newborn Screening Program (ENBS) and helped assess and strengthen the implementation in the region. The participants formulated plans highlighting strategies and actions to have an effective program implementation at the community level.

Resource speakers included Dr. Anna Lea G. Elizaga who provided updates on ENBS and Norrice F. Victorio who discussed unfit and unsatisfactory samples and strategies in handling common problems and concerns in program implementation. Frederick David Beltran, Project Development Officer for Patient Care from the Newborn Screening Reference Center, gave an orientation on continuity clinics' roles and functions in the national program operations. Hope Fabila from PhilHealth-Palawan also gave updates on the Newborn Care Package. *JSFenol*



Laboratory personnel work on NBS samples as participants observe during one of the laboratory exposure trips.

50 NCR Facilities Get NBS Workshop and Lab Trip

The Department of Health-National Capital Region Office (DOH-NCRO), in collaboration with the Newborn Screening Center-National Institutes of Health (NSC-NIH), conducted a series of cluster meetings and laboratory exposure trips in November 2016 to stress and improve the newborn screening (NBS) program implementation in the region.

The newborn screening coordinators of 50 hospitals and lying-in clinics with the highest unfit and unsatisfactory sample ratings were grouped into five batches. Each group underwent workshops to identify the causes of unfit and unsatisfactory samples and to resolve the hindrances in the delivery of NBS services. Exposure trips to the NSC-NIH laboratory were also included to show the process of sorting, punching, testing of blood samples, recalling of patients, and releasing of results.

Health facilities' records of screening and actual unfit (contaminated and insufficient) and unsatisfactory samples

(that is, missing information, no feeding information, late receipt, data erasures, and less-than- 24-hours samples) were presented to the participants. They also held brainstorming sessions to generate solutions and strategies to lessen such samples.

At the end of the activity, the participants agreed to echo the outputs and outcomes of the meeting to their colleagues to improve the delivery of NBS services in their respective facilities. Further, the health facilities will coordinate with DOH-NCRO with regard to the training schedules and the inclusion of their staff to the orientation and heel-prick collection practicum.

The meeting and laboratory tours were in compliance with the "Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System (NCNBSS)" section in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9288, or the Newborn Screening Act of 2004. *CAIincastre*

Reunion of Saved Babies in San Juan City



Patients play charades during the reunion in San Juan City.

The Department of Health-National Capital Region Office, in partnership with the Newborn Screening Center-National Institutes of Health, gathered patients found positive in one of the disorders being screened for a reunion at the Greenhills Elan Hotel Modern, San Juan City, on November 26, 2016.

The activity was attended by patients and parents of confirmed cases of Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency, Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, Congenital Hypothyroidism, Galactosemia, and Phenylketonuria. This year's reunion focused on social interaction among participants with various games, music, charades, puzzles, and other fun activities.

The Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health-South Luzon Cluster, led by Aster Lyn Sur and Rufus Aducul, joined in and facilitated the break-out sessions. Also, Dr. Anna Lea Elizaga gave a lecture to the parents on expanded newborn screening. *NVictorio*



Reunion in Davao Goes Hawaiian



Participants and organizers of the Reunion of Saved Babies in Davao City

It was Hawaiian theme for this year when Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao held the Reunion of Saved Babies at the Waterfront Insular Hotel, Davao City, on November 5, 2016.

About 200 participants from Davao region joined the event, majority of whom were babies with Glucose-6-phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency and Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH) and children with Galactosemia. Both parents and children enjoyed parlor games, puppet shows, and mascot dances. *AMatuan*

Malaybalay City Health Office Holds Forum for NBS Stakeholders

To help in providing care for babies confirmed with disorders under the newborn screening (NBS) panel, the NBS Team of the City Health Office of Malaybalay conducted a forum for parents, nurses, and midwives at The Garden, Malaybalay City, on December 12, 2016.

The activity was graced by Dr. Dennis P. Sangalang, Malaybalay City Health Officer, who opened the program proper, and Dr. Susan Marie Punongbayan, Malaybalay City Rural Health Physician. Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Unit Head of Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao, gave a presentation on the region's NBS statistics and updates about the program.

The city's NBS Team is composed of Dr. Melrose S. Deticio, medical coordinator, and staff Ma. Rica Raguro, Jerome Carla Hernandez, and Khari Karen Libot. *RAguilar*

Region 10 NSF Assembly Goes to Bukidnon

The Newborn Screening Facilities (NSF) Assembly is an annual activity of the Department of Health-Regional Office (DOH-RO) 10 to provide a venue to discuss issues and concerns in the implementation of newborn screening. This year, the DOH-RO 10 conducted the NSF Assembly at Saddle Ridge Camp, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, on November 16-18, 2016.

Some 80 NBS coordinators from both private and government NSFs in the region participated in the event. Speakers from the Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao were also invited to provide developments and updates on Expanded Newborn Screening. Further, accomplishments and regional status from 2015 were also reported. *GBSamante*



Participants conduct facility visits at Bukidnon Provincial Hospital Manolo Fortich during the NSF Assembly.

DOH-RO 10 Conducts NBS Training

Two batches of 36 participants each attended the newborn screening (NBS) training conducted by the Department of Health-Regional Office 10 at the Pearlmont Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City, on November 22-25, 2016.

The participants were composed of doctors, nurses, medical technologists, and midwives who would provide additional personnel capacity to existing NBS staff in their respective areas of responsibility. *GBSamante*



Mindanao Cluster Conducts Zonal Planning Workshop



Participants of the zonal planning workshop wearing their batch shirt

The Department of Health-Regional Office 12 conducted a two-day zonal planning workshop at Isla Jardin Del Mar, Glan, Sarangani, on November 28-29, 2016. It was attended by the regional program managers and nurse coordinators within the Mindanao cluster, which is composed of (Regions 9, 10, 11, 12, Caraga, and ARMM).

Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao, headed by Dr. Conchita Abarquez, was present to help participants discuss together issues regarding the program and solutions and best practices. A presentation on Volunteers Youth Leaders for Health was introduced as well. Among those resolved in the workshop were guiding coordinators in proper sampling, sorting, and using of transmittal forms, helping in the purchase of medications of confirmed cases, and improving ways to deliver NBS services. *RMua*

Participants of the refresher course undergo sample collection practicum at the Northern Mindanao Medical Center.

DOH-RO 10 Holds NBS Refresher Course

The Department of Health-Regional Office (DOH-RO) 10 conducted a two-day refresher course for newborn screening (NBS) coordinators of newborn screening facilities (NSFs) with high unsatisfactory samples at Pearlmont Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City, on November 10-11, 2016. The participants discussed issues in the implementation of the program and identified contributing factors for unsatisfactory samples and common errors. They also came up with strategies to address issues and caught up with updates on Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS).

The course was facilitated by the NBS Coordinators of DOH-RO 10 and the Newborn Screening Center (NSC)-Mindanao. Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, NSC-Mindanao Unit Head, gave a lecture on ENBS, while Perly Bermudez, Project Development Officer, discussed the unsatisfactory samples received from NSFs. On the second day, participants underwent a practicum conducted at the Northern Mindanao Medical Center. *GBSamante*



DOH-RO 11 Conducts Review for Davao Region



Participants of the Program Implementation Review join the organizers and staff of DOH-RO 11 for a photo after the two-day workshop.

The Department of Health-Regional Office (DOH-RO) 11 gathered newborn screening facilities (NSFs) from all over Davao region for the Program Implementation Review at the Royal Mandaya Hotel, Davao City, on November 15-16, 2016.

A total of 94 NBS coordinators composed of doctors, nurses, midwives, and medical technologists from both government and private NSFs participated in the activity, which addressed issues and concerns that the NSFs had encountered, especially the dismal coverage rate in the region.

Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao Unit Head, presented NBS updates, while Clarose Mascardo, DOH-RO 11 NBS Program Manager, presented regional NBS updates and reports. Dr. Genelyne Beley, Head of Region 11 Continuity Clinic, presented the functions and accomplishments of the clinic. Participants also presented their action plans and renewed their commitment to reach the mandated 100 percent coverage. *SMGullaran*



Batangas, Laguna Parents Attend G6PD Forum

Some 87 parents of babies confirmed with Glucose-6-phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency from Batangas and Laguna attended the G6PD Forum organized by the Newborn Screening Center–Southern Luzon (NSC-SL) in collaboration with Department of Health–Regional Office 4A at Gov. Modesto Castillo Memorial Cultural Center, Tanauan City, Batangas, on November 5, 2016.



Dr. Jocelyn Rosita addresses the queries of parents about G6PD deficiency.

Dr. Jocelyn Rosita, pediatric hematologist at the Mary Mediatrix Medical Center, served as the resource speaker and discussed the genetic basis of inheritance of G6PD, its manifestation, and some recommendations regarding food and drug intake of patients.

During the open forum, parents took the opportunity to ask questions, especially about diet and medications that should be followed by G6PD patients. After the forum, some indigent patients were given free G6PD confirmatory tests. *FDimaculangan*

NSC-SL Conducts Reunion Series



Counterclockwise: (1) Children from Cavite Province play parlor games. (2) Parents from Quezon Province enjoy games prepared for them as well. (3) Kids flock to the mascot for photos in Laguna Province.

The Newborn Screening Center–Southern Luzon, in coordination with the Department of Health–Regional Office 4A, held the annual Reunion of Saved Babies for the provinces of Cavite, Quezon, and Rizal on November 12, 19, and 26, 2016, and for Laguna and Batangas on December 3 and 7.

For all occasions, the program started with the presentation of the 2016 NBS AVP featuring the 20 years of existence of the program.

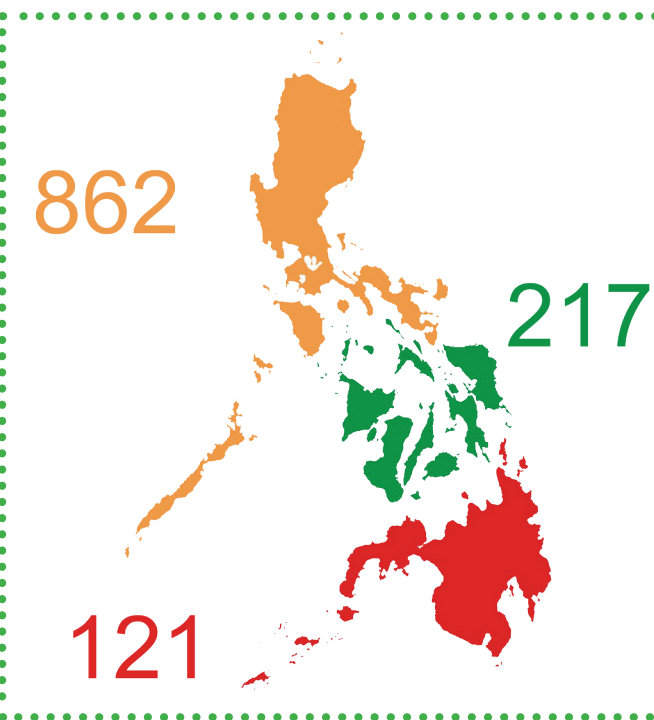
Participants were treated to games, mascot performances, raffle giveaways, and tokens for each family. *VJDGuerra*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Philippines will celebrate the 8th National Rare Disease Week (NRDW) on 22-28 February 2017, joining hands with the rest of the world in the Rare Disease Day 2017 campaign, which focuses on orphan disorder research and carries the slogan “With Research Possibilities are Limitless.”

To join the raising of awareness and learn more information about this activity, please visit <http://psod.org.ph/nrdw2017>.



The Newborn Screening Reference Center joins the Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders, Inc. in celebrating the

8th National Rare Disease Week
22 - 28 February 2017
10th International Rare Disease Day
28 February 2017

Research brings Hope
to people living with a rare disease

With research, possibilities are limitless

#CareForRarePH f rareiseaseweekph psod.org.ph/nrdw2017

As of December 2016, there are 1,200 health facilities in the country offering expanded newborn screening services: 862 in Luzon, 217 in Visayas, and 121 in Mindanao. Please visit www.newbornscreening.ph to see the complete list.

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NSC-CL Spreads Christmas Cheer



The holiday season is a time of giving to those who have less. In tune with this spirit, the Newborn Screening Center–Central Luzon (NSC-CL) brought Christmas cheers through its “Christmas Caroling for a Cause” program on December 14 and 19, 2016.

University Foundation and the resident doctors from the Angeles University Foundation Medical Center and serenaded them with holiday carols.

The proceeds of the program will fund confirmatory testing fees of indigent patients screened positive for disorders in the newborn screening panel. *NDelaCruz*

NSC-CL staff went to the homes of the Board of Trustees and Management Committee of the Angeles

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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Number of Babies Screened as of December 2016

9,104,068



PH to Celebrate World Birth Defects Day

Every year, nearly eight million babies around the world are born with a serious birth defect. Half of these birth defects will be diagnosed during the first years of life. In many countries, birth defects are one of the leading causes of death in infants and young children. Babies who survive and live with these conditions are at an increased risk of long-term disabilities.

To increase global awareness on these conditions, a growing network of local and international organizations has dedicated March 3 as World Birth Defects Day (#WorldBDday).

In the Philippines, the observance of #WorldBDday is led by the Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health Philippines and the University of the Philippines Manila. Partners from Department of Health, Newborn Screening Centers, different government agencies, and non-government and student organizations have also formally agreed to support #WorldBDday.

PGH Hosts G6PD Parents Forum

To educate parents of confirmed Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency patients in the region, the Newborn Screening Center–National Institutes of Health conducted the G6PD Parents Forum at the Philippine General Hospital's Science Hall on December 2, 2016.

The activity was attended by 80 parents and guardians of confirmed positive patients. Dr. Catherine Lynn Silao, a university researcher at the Institute of Human Genetics, gave a lecture on the genetic aspect of the disorder, while Dr. Beatriz Gepte, oncology consultant at the Philippine Children's Medical Center, discussed the clinical aspect of the disorder. An open forum followed the lecture to clear some of the common misconceptions about the disorder.

G6PD deficiency is a condition where the body lacks the enzyme called G6PD. Babies with this deficiency may have hemolytic anemia resulting from exposure to oxidative substances found in drugs, foods, and chemicals. It has a high rate of prevalence in the Philippines (1:54). *NVictorio*