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newborn screening

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THE LIPA CITY NBS EXPERIENCE

by Batangas Governor Vilma Santos-Recto

A speech delivered during the 5th National Newborn Screening Convention

Magandang Umaga sa inyong lahat na naririto. Ako'y nagpapasalamat sa pag-imbata ninyo sa akin na maging panelist tungkol sa Newborn Screening (NBS) test. This will be a good opportunity to share with you our experience in Lipa when we started implementing this wonderful test on a city-wide basis this year.

If there is one program that we really value most, it is our health program, dahil ako'y isang ina at alam ko kung gaano kahalaga ang kalusugan ng ating mga anak.

When the NBS test came to my attention, I immediately asked my staff in the health office to conduct a cost and operational analysis in case we decide to implement this. Dahil 'di biro ang gastos dito dahil almost P500 per baby ang pinag-uusapan natin dito. On

the average 3,200 babies ang ipinganganak dito sa Lipa, based on our initial studies. How do we select them? Whom we will prioritize? These are the issues that we discussed so much.

We were already fully convinced that every newborn child should benefit from this program; and that this should be an integral part of routine newborn baby care. No newborn child should suffer from any harmful or potentially fatal



Governor Vilma Santos-Recto taking an oath as honorary member of Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc. Also in photo are NSSPI President Dr. Rowena Pua (left) and Dr. Carmencita Padilla.

disorder which could be easily detected and prevented by NBS test.

We believe that every child must be given the opportunity to grow normally. That this is his right. And therefore, he should never be deprived of the benefits that NBS test provides just because his parents are poor or living in remote areas. Because it is so easy to administer; it doesn't cost much; and it's accessible.

How do we implement the program?

First, we sent our midwives and medi-

cal technologists to National Institutes of Health in UP, learn how to administer the NBS test, the right procedure of collecting blood samples/specimen from the heels of these newborn babies.

Second, because my instruction was to see to it that every child in Lipa must be given the opportunity to undergo NBS, our health workers searched for all pregnant women in all 72 barangays in Lipa and then, they prepared a master list of

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OUTSTANDING NBS FACILITIES FOR 2007

Out of the over 1200 health facilities offering newborn screening as of 2006, 66 Newborn Screening Facilities or NSFs are being recognized as "Outstanding Newborn Screening Facilities" for their exemplary performance in newborn screening for the past year 2006 and in due recognition of its active role in helping the government improve the health of Filipino children through newborn screening. These facilities were chosen based on their ability to screen 90% and above of the total number of babies born in their health facilities in 2006.

Local Government Unit Hospital

Bago City Hospital
Bayawan District Hospital
Cadiz District Hospital
Don Salvador Benedicto Memorial District Hospital
Isabela District Hospital
Kidapawan Doctor's Hospital, Inc.
Teresita L. Jalandoni Provincial Hospital

Local Government Unit Lying-in

Doña Marta Lying-In

Special Government Hospital

Philippine General Hospital

Private Lying-in Clinics

Cattleya Well Family Midwife Clinic
Sy Medical Clinic, Inc.
Well-Family Midwife Clinic - Gertrudes Luderico

Private Primary Hospitals

Alabang Medical Clinic - Muntinlupa Branch
Alabang Medical Clinic - Talon Branch
Beato Cauilan Hospital
Morong Doctors Hospital
Olivarez General Hospital

Private Secondary Hospitals

Alabang Medical Clinic
Angeles Medical Center, Inc.
Bataan Doctors Hospital
Divine Love General Hospital
Dr. Amando Cope Memorial Hospital
E.D. Lim Maternity & General Hospital
Family Care Hospital
Laguna Doctors Hospital
Lipa Medix Medical Center
Los Baños Doctors Hospital, Inc.
Metro Vigan Cooperative Hospital
Molino Doctors Hospital
Mother Regina Hospital
Novaliches General Hospital
Rosario Memorial Hospital
San Pedro Doctors Hospital, Inc

St. Victoria Hospital
Sta. Cruz Laguna Polymedic Inc.
Sta. Rita Hospital
Sto. Rosario Hospital
Tanza Family General Hospital
Trinity Woman and Child Center
"The Birth Place"

Private Tertiary Hospitals

Asian Hospital and Medical Center
Batangas Health Care Hospital
(Jesus of Nazareth)
Biñan Doctors Hospital, Inc.
Calamba Doctors Hospital
Cardinal Santos Medical Center
Chinese General Hospital
Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center
Dr. Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center
Hospital of the Infant Jesus
Las Piñas City Medical Center
Las Piñas Doctors Hospital
Lorma Medical Center
Manila Adventist Medical Center
Manila East Medical Center
Mary Mediatrix Medical Center
Medical Center Paranaque
Metropolitan Hospital
Mt. Carmel Diocesan General Hospital
Notre Dame de Chartres Hospital
Q.C. St. Agnes General Hospital, Inc.
SPC Medical Center
St. Jude Hospital & Medical Center
St. Luke's Medical Center
St. Martin De Porres Hospital - San Juan
St. Paul's Hospital of Iloilo, Inc.
The Medical City
United Doctor's Medical Center

SPECIAL AWARDS 2007

The Outstanding Achievers of Newborn Screening Award was highlighted with recognition through special awards of five agencies and organizations which have provided a unique way of helping the national program in achieving its goal - to save more babies from mental retardation and death.

Bayawan District Hospital

For its exemplary achievement and consistency in screening 90% and above of its home deliveries in its catchment area for the past years, attained by employing various strategies in advocating newborn screening and instituting ways of sustaining the program at the community level since its newborn screening implementation.

Provincial Gov't of Negros Occidental

For the Provincial Government's continuous political commitment to actively support NBS and for continually taking the lead among all the local government units in the country in institutionalizing and sustaining newborn screening at the provincial level in order to provide quality health care to its constituents.



In Photo: from left NSRC Director Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla, CHD 6 Regional Director Dr. Lydia Depra-Ramos, Chief of Hospital Dr. Ma. Girlie Pinongan, Negros Occ. PHO Dr. Luisa Efreñ and DOH Assistant Secretary Dr. David Lozada, Jr.

Manila Health Department

For its unwavering support to help educate the indigents in its catchment area on newborn screening; instituting ways of sustaining the program in its several lying-in/birthing home clinics; dedication and commitment in following-up indigent patients for recall and management of cases; and assisting the national program in NBS billboard placement on strategic areas in Manila.





In photo: NSRC Director Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla, NBS Coordinators' Dr. Jocelyn Denoga and Ms. Nelia Rafael, DOH Assistant Secretary Dr. David Lozada, Jr.

Center for Health Development Region 6

For the exemplary achievement as the CHD in the country able to motivate, lead and involve the most number of government facilities within its jurisdiction into actively implementing NBS.



From Left: Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla, CHD 6 Nurse Coordinator Lisa Sante, CHD 6 Regional Director Dr. Lydia Depura-Ramos, DOH-Asst. Sec. Dr. David Lozada, Jr.)

Center for Health Development - NCR)

For consistently leading as the CHD with the highest number of newborns screened in the country for the past five years, taking the lead in involving the city health departments in the program implementation; for its invaluable efforts to help educate the health workers in the country on NBS through lectures and trainings.



From left CHD NCR Mr. Glorioso Velasco, DOH NCDPC Division Chief Dr. Juanita Basilio, DOH NCDPC Dr. Yolanda Oliveros, CHD NCR NBS Program Coordinator Dr. Paz Corrales, Ms. Leah Quinoveva and NSRC Director Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla.

NBS AWARENESS WEEK NEWSBRIEFS

Newborn Screening Consultative Workshop

As part of the continuing effort to empower all the 17 Centers for Health Development (CHD), the DOH in coordination with the Newborn Screening Reference Center conducted a consultative meeting with the NBS Coordinators and Regional Directors on October 2, 2007 at the Kimberly Hotel, Manila. The meeting aimed to discuss different strategies and practices which can be employed in increasing the newborn screening coverage nationwide. It also serves as a venue for the regional newborn screening implementers to share their insights regarding the program and to address issues and concerns.

Awarding Ceremony for Outstanding Achievers

In celebration of the Newborn Screening Week, 66 Health Facilities were recognized as Outstanding Newborn Screening Facilities for 2006 during the Awarding Ceremony for Outstanding Achievers on October 3, 2007 at the Heritage Hotel, Pasay City. Five agencies and organizations were given special awards in recognition of their efforts in assisting the newborn screening program in terms of advocacy, education, implementation and working for sustainability.

The award serves as "a challenge for DOH and its partners to sustain our gains and push the existing Newborn Screening Facilities to test all newborns delivered in their facilities. Hence, we need to create a bigger demand for newborn screening services by increasing public awareness and ensuring that more communities are reached through innovative schemes in extending newborn screening coverage", according to DOH Secretary Francisco T. Duque.

5th National Newborn Screening Convention: "Bringing the Newborn Screening to the Grassroots Level"

October 4, 2007, Thursday, marked the 6th year of the NSSPI in time for the Newborn Screening Awareness Week and the 5th National Newborn Convention which was held at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City. More than 700 health practitioners consisting of doctors, nurses, midwives and medical technologists attended the said events.

The convention was highlighted with plenary sessions on newborn screening panel of disorders and the success of the NBS Experience in Lipa City as presented by Dr. Ariel Lescano and the convention's keynote speaker Honorable Governor Vilma Santos-Recto.

With this convention, the NSSPI, envisions that the theme's convention "Bringing the Newborn Screening to the Grassroots Level" will help increase the NBS awareness and the coverage in the next few years.

Reunion of Saved Babies

More than a hundred babies saved by Newborn Screening coming from different parts of Luzon trooped the Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman on October 7, 2007 to celebrate the annual Reunion of Saved Babies, culminating the Newborn Screening Awareness Week. The reunion aims to rally the parents to actively advocate Newborn Screening.

Children and parents were treated to various fun and surprises aside from establishing camaraderie among them and the organizers. The activity is sponsored by the Newborn Screening Reference Center, Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines and DOH Center for Health Development Metro Manila.

NEWBORN SCREENING ON ITS 11th year:

A continuing commitment to save babies from mental retardation

Approximately 33,000 of the 2 million babies born annually in the country are at risk for life-threatening congenital metabolic disorders. Through newborn screening, an essential public health strategy, several inborn errors of metabolism are detected early and managed, thus preventing complications i.e. anemia, mental retardation and even death. It is done by collecting a few drops of blood from the baby's heel at least 24 hours from birth to 72 hours of life.

Newborn screening was introduced in the Philippines in 1996 as a pilot project by the Newborn Screening Group which was composed of pediatricians and obstetricians from 24 hospitals in Metro Manila. The project was tasked (1) to conduct a pilot study to determine the local incidence of congenital hypothyroidism (CH), congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH), phenylketonuria (PKU), galactosemia (GAL) and homocystinuria (HCY); and (2) to make recommendations for national implementation for the program. Based on the result of the study, the group recommended to the Department of Health the adoption and nationwide implementation of newborn screening as one of the priority projects for newborn



care. At present, collected blood samples are tested for the five disorders: Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH), Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH), Phenylketonuria (PKY), Galactosemia (Gal) and G6PD Deficiency.

Furthermore, to ensure an integrative and sustainable implementation of the government's policy towards the implementation of newborn screening, efforts were made to simultaneously work on the program issues as well as bring out policies from both the Executive and Legislative branches.

- In 1999 DOH Adopted Newborn Screening as one of its health programs;
- In 2001 the National Technical Working Group was created;
- Republic Act No 9288 otherwise known as the Newborn Screening Act of 2004 was signed in April 6, 2004;
- Presidential Proclamation No. 540 was issued on January 2004 by President Arroyo as an expression of support to the NBS Program. The policy declared the first week of October of each year as a "National Newborn Screening Week".

(Continued from page 1)

all these pregnant women.

Since, more than 50% of these women gave birth right in their home, that's where our trained health personnel performed the NBS test to the newly born child. The rest of the newborns were in the government hospitals.

I was informed that as of September this year, NBS test has been administered to 1,649 babies with 78 were found

to be positive for Glucose 6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency. The parents of these children have been advised by Lipa's health personnel on what food and medicine should their children avoid. I learned if these children eat the wrong type of food, they could eventually suffer from severe anemia.

Only one was detected to be born with Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH), which if left unchecked, I was informed,

may result to severe growth and mental retardation.

I have allocated P1.7M for free NBS testing in Lipa. I am hoping more newborns will benefit from this program so that they will be spared from conditions that could lead to harmful or potentially fatal disorder, so that they will be able to grow normally which they all rightfully deserve.

Maraming salamat po.