

# newborn screening

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National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila

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## CHDs Appointed Full-time NBS Nurse Coordinators

“There is a sense of comfort in knowing that you are not alone in this task. That there are other nurse coordinators in other Centers for Health Development (CHD) who understand your situation and are willing to support.”

This comment was shared by a participant in the recently concluded

cal training and processes.

The hiring of a NBS nurse coordinator in each CHD was an outcome of the consultative meeting conducted with DOH which identified the lack of human resource as a major constraint in attaining the target on NBS coverage. Following the said consultative meeting in October



The new CHD Nurse Coordinators and organizers of the orientation training

*Mainstreaming Newly-appointed CHD Nurse Coordinators in the National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System* conducted on June 2-4, 2009 at Kimberly Hotel, Manila.

A total of 16 CHD nurse coordinators, 3 follow-up nurses from the three Newborn Screening Centers, and 5 doctors attended the workshop aimed at making the newly hired staff on-board the newborn screening program. The workshop was designed to equip them with basic knowledge and skills in NBS implementation, provide them with deeper insights of their organization, including partners and other program stakeholders, and provide them with tools to translate into practical and programmatic application their clinical

2008, DOH directed all CHDs to hire a nurse coordinator whose sole responsibility is newborn screening. The nurses are expected to perform functions related to management and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, networking, database and some administrative matters.

This strategy highlights the importance of the support system for the NBS program where more financially able partners sponsor the salary and other operating expenses of the nurse coordinators in CHDs that are still working for higher NBS coverage. The agreement is that within a given period, the supported CHD should be able to generate enough funds to sustain NBS implementation in their areas.

## 9 more G6PD Confirmatory Laboratories to Open

Pursuant to the mandate of the Newborn Screening Act of 2004 to track and confirm patients with abnormal initial results to ensure the accuracy of screening tests, nine more facilities are now open to offer Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Confirmatory Test in addition to the G6PD Confirmatory laboratory located at the National Institutes of Health.

These facilities were opened on the basis of availability of the testing machine. Also, the cost for confirmatory testing was set at **Four Hundred Pesos (P400)** to ensure accessibility of the service.

All newborn screening facilities are directed to send their G6PD deficient patients to the following G6PD confirmatory centers:

1. University of Perpetual Help Delta Medical Center (Metro Manila)
2. Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital (Metro Manila)
3. MCU-FDTMF (Metro Manila)
4. Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center (Ilocos Norte)
5. Cagayan Valley Sanitarium and Hospital (Isabela)
6. Angeles University Foundation Medical Center (Pampanga)
7. Batangas Regional Hospital (Batangas)
8. Polymedic Medical Plaza (Misamis Oriental)
9. Tagum Doctors Hospital (Davao)

The National Institutes of Health Central Laboratory however, will still cater to patients from the Visayas.

Please refer to G6PD areas of coverage on page 6



## Frequently Asked Questions on PhilHealth’s Newborn Care Package A Public Service from Philhealth

**PhilHealth’s Newborn Care Package** is paid thru case payment and is worth 1,000 pesos per case. Included in the package is the provision of the following services:

<b>1. Routine newborn care:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thermal care</li> <li>• Umbilical cord care</li> <li>• Eye prophylaxis</li> <li>• Vitamin K</li> </ul>	250 pesos
<b>2. Administration of BCG vaccine</b>	
<b>3. Resuscitation of newborn (as needed)</b>	
<b>4. 1st dose of Hepatitis B immunization</b>	250 pesos
<b>5. Newborn screening test</b>	500 pesos
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,000 pesos</b>

Premium requirements for employed and individually paying members (IPM) including KaSAPI & organized groups are only 3 months of premium payment within the immediate 6 months prior to delivery.

### 1. What is PhilHealth’s Newborn Care Package?

PhilHealth’s Newborn Care Package or NCP is a benefit for newborns worth 1,000 pesos.

This package covers the following services: routine newborn care (thermal care, umbilical cord care, eye prophylaxis, and Vitamin K injection) with or without resuscitation of the newborn; administration of BCG and 1<sup>st</sup> dose of Hepatitis B vaccines; and newborn screening test.

### 2. Who are eligible to claim for PhilHealth’s NCP?

All qualified dependents of any PhilHealth member who are delivered in PhilHealth accredited hospitals and non-hospital facilities (lying-in clinics, birthing homes) accredited for the maternity care package are eligible for NCP.

Premium requirement for dependents of employed and individually paying members (including KaSAPI and organized groups) is 3 months of premium payment within the immediate 6 months prior to the month of delivery.

### 3. Is the NCP limited only to babies of PhilHealth members who are delivered in the first 3 normal deliveries?

No. Although PhilHealth currently limits the coverage of normal deliveries to the first 3 births, the NCP may be claimed by all babies delivered by normal delivery.

A baby’s claim for NCP is now unrelated to a mother’s claim for Normal Spontaneous Delivery (NSD) Package or Maternity Care Package (MCP).

A claim may be filed for a baby’s NCP even if a mother’s claim for delivery is not covered by PhilHealth.

### 4. Are babies delivered via caesarean section covered by the NCP?

Yes. The NCP may be availed by babies whether they are delivered by normal vaginal deliveries, breech extractions or caesarean sections.

### 5. What is “thermal care”?

Thermal care service includes drying the infant in warm towel to prevent hypothermia caused by evaporation after delivery. Drying also stimulates the infant to cry. All newborns should be given thermal care immediately after delivery.

### 6. What is covered under “umbilical cord care”?

Included under umbilical cord care are clamping of the umbilical cord with surgical forceps, disposable cord clamp or cord tie, and; all other services required to keep the cord dry and clean to prevent infection of the umbilical cord stump (e.g., application of ethyl alcohol and/or povidone-iodine).

### 7. Should antibiotic ointment be placed in the eyes of all newborns?

Yes, it is essential that antibiotic ointment or drops are routinely placed into both eyes of all newborns to prevent conjunctivitis.

### 8. Should all newborns receive Vitamin K?

Yes, it is important that all newborns be given intramuscular injection of Vitamin K to prevent hemorrhagic disease of the newborn.

**9. What is “resuscitation of the newborn”?**

Resuscitation is a series of actions (e.g., suctioning, administration of oxygen) to establish normal breathing, heart rate, color, tone and response of an infant with an abnormal vital signs or low Apgar score.

**10. Do all newborns require resuscitation?**

No. Resuscitation is required only for newborns that do not breathe well by 1 minute after delivery or have Apgar score below 7. Infants who breathe well after delivery need no resuscitation.

If performed, resuscitation of the newborn should be included in Part IV c item No. 3 of PhilHealth Claim Form 2.

**11. Will PhilHealth reimburse a hospital’s claim for newborn care package (NCP) if BCG was given after patient’s discharge?**

Yes, because most normal newborn babies can be sent home after 6 hours after delivery and some services required can be given on an outpatient basis.

As long as the BCG immunization was done before filing of claim, a hospital can be reimbursed for the NCP.

Same rule applies with Hepatitis B immunization & newborn screening test - they can be done after a patient’s discharge.

**12. If members were asked to pay for newborn screening test or Hepatitis B vaccine, will hospital’s claim for NCP be paid by PhilHealth?**

No, asking members to pay for items included in NCP instead of deducting the cost of services from hospital bill is also considered as incomplete provision of services.

Hospital’s claim will be disallowed; however, a member will be reimbursed if valid official receipts are attached to the claim forms submitted to PhilHealth.

**13. If the BCG immunization was given in doctor’s clinic and the patient was charged for the service, will the hospital’s claim for NCP be paid by PhilHealth?**

No, this is considered as incomplete provision of services and the claim will be denied.

Even if supported by official receipts, a claim for BCG alone cannot be reimbursed since payment of 250 pesos for BCG is bundled with other required routine newborn care services: eye prophylaxis, umbilical cord care, Vitamin K administration, and thermal care.

**14. If the BCG immunization was given in a rural health unit or health center, will the claim for NCP filed by accredited facilities where the baby was delivered be paid by PhilHealth?**

Yes, the hospital will also be paid as long as BCG immunization is given. In some areas the rural health units, and not the hospitals, are designated as providers of BCG immunization.

The whole case payment for NCP worth 1,000 pesos will be given to accredited provider where the baby was delivered.

**15. Can accredited RHUs file for reimbursement for NCP?**

No, NCP may only be provided by accredited hospitals and non-hospitals facilities accredited as providers of PhilHealth’s maternity care package (MCP) such as lying-in clinics, birthing homes or midwife-managed clinics.

Accredited RHUs who have capability to provide delivery should file for a separate accreditation as an MCP facility so they can both file for MCP and NCP.

Facilities that are not allowed to provide NCP (like RHUs) should issue official receipts for newborn screening tests done in their facilities to facilitate direct payment to PhilHealth members.

**16. Are all accredited hospitals and providers for MCP eligible to claim for NCP?**

No, only facilities that are certified by DOH or NSRC as a newborn screening facility (NSF) may file for NCP.

To facilitate processing of claims, all accredited hospitals and facilities for MCP are required to submit to PhilHealth their certificate as newborn screening facility.

List of certified NSF may be downloaded from the Newborn Screening Reference Center website. ([www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph))

**17. Are babies delivered at home or in non-accredited facilities eligible to claim for services included in NCP?**

No. Only babies delivered in PhilHealth accredited hospitals and non-hospital facilities (lying-in clinics, birthing homes, midwife-managed clinics) accredited for the maternity care package are covered by the Newborn Care Package.

Accredited hospitals and lying-in clinics should not file NCP claims for babies not delivered in their facilities.

**18. Are sick babies eligible to claim for NCP?**

Sick babies are not allowed to claim for a separate benefit for NCP.

They are, however, entitled to have the services included in NCP as part of their hospitalization benefit.

Example of items used for the provision of NCP may be claimed under the following:

Drugs & Medicines	Laboratory, Supplies & Others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Eye antibiotics</li> <li>▪ Vitamin K</li> <li>▪ BCG vaccine</li> <li>▪ Hepatitis B vaccine</li> <li>▪ Oxygen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Newborn screening test</li> <li>▪ Disposable cord clamp</li> <li>▪ Ethyl alcohol</li> <li>▪ Povidone-iodine</li> <li>▪ Supplies like cotton, syringe, needle</li> </ul>

Only one PhilHealth Claim Form 2 should be submitted to PhilHealth

## NBS Week Calendar of Activities

### October 1, 2009

- Awarding of Exemplary/Outstanding NBS Facilities
- NBS Consultative Meeting

### October 2, 2009

- 7th Newborn Screening Convention "Reaching New Heights and New Perspectives in Newborn Screening"  
Davao Convention and Trade Center, Davao City

### October 6, 2009

- 7th Newborn Screening Convention "Reaching New Heights and New Perspectives in Newborn Screening"  
Avenue Plaza Hotel, Naga City, Camarines Sur

### Other Activities:

- Reunion of Saved Babies (Venue and date to be announced)

## Reaching New Heights and New Perspectives in Newborn Screening

### MESSAGE



*It is with great pride and honor that the Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc. will hold its 7<sup>th</sup> Convention with the theme: "Reaching New Heights and New Perspectives in Newborn Screening".*

*Newborn screening has gone a long way since its inception in 1996 by a group of pediatricians and obstetricians. It has hurdled challenges and obstacles to fulfill its noble objective of saving more Filipino babies from mental retardation and death.*

*For this year, the conventions will be held in Davao City on October 2, 2009 and in Naga City, Camarines Sur, Bicol on October 6, 2009.*

*The convention is ably chaired by Dr. Eleonor C. Du (Davao City), and Dr. Erlita E. Cledera (Camarines Sur), staunch advocates of Newborn Screening. Preparations are ongoing, and the organizers are working relentlessly to come up with a successful convention. The one-day convention will provide a venue for discussions of issues and experiences on neonatal screening from experts and implementers of newborn screening.*

*On behalf of the officers and members of the Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc. and the organizers, I would like to invite you to be part of this significant event.*

*Thank you!*

**ROWENA A. PUA, MD**  
President

### For Inquiry, Call the Organizing Committees

#### **NBS Convention - Davao City**

(Davao Convention and Trade Center, Davao City)

Chair: **Dr. Eleonor C. Du**

Contact details: 09209224600

Co-Chair: **Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez**

Contact details: 09159957422

Email address: [nbsdavao@yahoo.com](mailto:nbsdavao@yahoo.com)

You may also get in touch with:

**Dr. Cheryl Lyn Diez** Contact details: 09209606906 or 09228920526

**Ms Jasmin Capito** Contact details: (082) 227-2731 loc 4402/4304

#### **NBS Convention - Camarines Sur**

(Avenue Plaza Hotel, Naga City, Camarines Sur)

Phil. Pediatric Society-Bicol Chapter President: **Dr. Erlita E. Cledera**

Contact details: 09189039394

Chair: **Dr. Mary Ann Cyril N. Mesalucha**

Contact details: 09209073463

Co-Chair: **Dr. Ruby T. Yangco**

Co-Chair: **Dr. Honey Mae P. Raborar**

You may also get in touch with:

**Dr. Maria Rosario C. Chacon**

Contact details: 09209073463

Telefax No. : (056) 211-2152

—w—

### **Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines Inc.**

**Chair** Carmelita F. Domingo, MD

**President** Rowena A. Pua, MD

**Vice President for External Affairs** Corazon Almirante, MD

**Vice President for Internal Affairs** Manuel Ferreria, MD

**Secretary** Ma. Louisa Peralta, MD

**Assistant Secretary** Ephraim Neil Orteza, MD

**Treasurer** Nancy Lao, MD

**Assistant Treasurer** Feliza King, MD

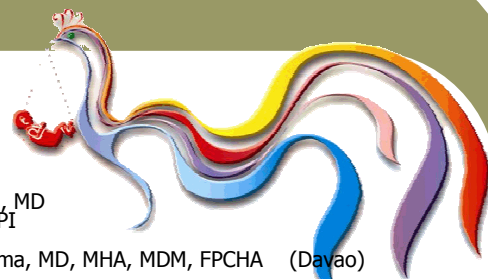
**Founding President** Carmencita D. Padilla, MD

#### **Board of Trustess**

Amelia Europa, MD / Cynthia Cuayo-Juico, MD

\*Bibiano Reyes, MD/ King King Tan, MD

## PROGRAMME



7:00 onwards	Registration	
8:00-9:00	Opening of Exhibits Opening Ceremonies	
	Welcome Remarks	Rowena A. Pua, MD President, NSSPI
	Introduction of Keynote Speaker Keynote Speaker Address	Teogenes Baluma, MD, MHA, MDM, FPCHA (Davao) Director IV FIMO-Mindanao Zonal Coordinator, Center for Health Development
9:00-9:15	Overview of Seminar & Introduction of Lecturers	Nestor F. Santiago, JR, MD, MPH, MHSA, CESO IV (Camarines Sur) Regional Director, Center for Health Development for Bicol
9:15-9:45	Role of Nurses and Midwives in Saving Filipino Newborns Through Newborn Screening	Aster Lyn Sur, RN, RND (Davao & Camarines Sur) Institute of Human Genetics-NIH, UP Manila
9:45-10:15	BREAK	
10:15-10:45	Roles of Stakeholders in the Newborn Screening Program	J Edgar Winston Posecion, MD, FPPS (Davao) Unit Head, NSC-Visayas
		Ma. Elouisa G. Reyes (Camarines Sur) Unit Head, NSC-NIH
10:45-11:15	Successful Implementation of the Newborn Screening Program: Learning from a Provincial Health Office	Edgardo R. Sandig, MD, MHA (Davao & Camarines Sur) Provincial Health Officer, South Cotobato
	Learning from a City Health Office	Florencio T. Flores, MD (Davao) Mayor, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
		Julio P. Javier II, MD (Camarines Sur) Newborn Screening Coordinator, Las Piñas City
11:15-12:00NN	Developments in PhilHealth's Newborn Care Package In relation to Newborn Screening	Narisa Portia J. Sugay, MD (Davao & Camarines Sur) PhilHealth
12:00-12:30	Open Forum Awarding of Certificates	
12:30-2:00	LUNCH	
2:00-2:20	Clearing the Myths and Giving Facts about G6PD Deficiency	Maria Beatriz Gepte, MD, FPPS (Davao & Camarines Sur) Pediatric Hematologist, PCMC
2:20-3:00	Gaining a Better Understanding of Congenital Hypothyroidism and Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia	John Uy, MD, DPPS, DPSPME (Davao) Pediatric Endocrinologist
		Dr. Sylvia Capistrano-Estrada, MD, FPPS (Camarines Sur) Metabolic Pediatrician and Pediatric Endocrinologist
3:00-3:20	Updates on Galactosemia and Phenylketonuria	Mary Anne D. Chiong, MD, FPPS (Davao & Camarines Sur) Head, Biochemical Genetics Unit, IHG-NIH
3:20-4:00	Open Forum	
4:00-5:00	Closing Ceremonies Awarding of Certificates Closing Remarks	Michael T. Manalaysay, MD, FPPS, PSPN (Davao) Chair, Department of Pediatrics Davao Medical Center
		Erlita E. Cledera, MD (Camarines Sur) President, Philippine Pediatric Society - Bicol Chapter

## REGISTRATION FEE

	Doctors	Non-Doctors
On or before Sept. 15, 2009	P 700	P 600
On-Site	P 1,000	P 900

## CALL FOR POSTERS

*Abstract Format, Submission & Presentation*

- Abstract will be accepted until **August 29, 2009**.
- It should include the following: objective, materials and methods, results and conclusion. The abstract should be submitted in size A4 paper and not exceeding 500 words.
- Notification of acceptance will be made **September 5, 2009**.
- Abstract may be submitted by email [info@nsrcr-nih.org.ph], fax [(02) 522-4396] or mail addressed to the secretariat.
- **Travel grants will be awarded to presenters.**



## G6PD Laboratories and their Areas of Coverage

Facility	Location	Area of Coverage
University of Perpetual Help Dalta Medical Center	Metro Manila	Pasay, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Muntinlupa, Cavite, Rizal, Laguna
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital	Metro Manila	Quezon City, Pasig, San Juan, Taguig, Pateros, Marikina, Makati, Manila, Mandaluyong
MCU-FDTMF	Metro Manila	Bulacan, Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela
Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and Medical Center	Ilocos Norte	Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Pangasinan, La Union
Cagayan Valley Sanitarium and Hospital	Isabela	Isabela, Cagayan, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, Batanes, Apayao, Mt. Province, Kalinga, Aurora
Angeles University Foundation Medical Center	Pampanga	Pampanga, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Zambales
Batangas Regional Hospital	Batangas	Batangas, Tagaytay, Quezon, Romblon, Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Catanduanes, Masbate, Romblon, Sorsogon, Mindoro, Palawan
Polymedic Medical Plaza	Misamis Oriental	Regions 10, CARAGA, ARMM
Tagum Doctors Hospital	Davao del Norte	Regions 9, 11 and 12
National Institutes of Health Central Laboratory	Metro Manila	Regions 6, 7 & 8

### NSC-Visayas Corner

*\*NSRC will be coming out with a list of G6PD extraction sites. For facilities interested to be included in this list, please send letter of intent to [info@nsrc-nih.org.ph](mailto:info@nsrc-nih.org.ph)*

### Saving More Babies through an LGU Assembly

Two Local Government Unit (LGU) Assemblies were held on May 21 and June 18, 2009 in Eastern Visayas and SOCCSKSARGEN, respectively through the collaboration of the Department of Health, Centers for Health Development and the Newborn Screening Center-Visayas in coordination with the Newborn Screening Reference Center. Representatives of local chief executives and provincial health officers from both regions attended the assemblies.

Both assemblies were conducted in response to DOH Memo No. 2008-0123 setting a national newborn screening target coverage of 85% for 2010. The conduct of the LGU Assemblies were aimed at ensuring that the targeted coverage is met through adequate and sustained NBS information and education in all LGU health facilities in the said regions. It is part of the national advocacy campaign to rally the support of the local chief executives, communities, and individuals who have powerful influence at the grassroots level and have big roles in changing the lives of the future members of the society.

Negros Occidental's Provincial Health Officer Dr. Luisa Efren and Lipa City's Assistant Health Officer Dr. Ariel Lescano shared successful practices and experiences in newborn screening implementation. Both assemblies offered great opportunity for participants to receive the benefits of their involvement, leadership and excellence in the implementation of Newborn Screening program in their localities.



*Organizers and participants to the LGU Assembly in SOCCSKSARGEN (top photo) and Eastern Visayas (lower photo)*

## NSC-NIH Corner

### Expanding Networks in Achieving Success

“The strong collaboration of various sectors, coupled with their commitment to saving babies from mental retardation, is one of the major factors for the success of the Newborn Screening Program in the Philippines”, says Director of Newborn Screening Reference Center Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla during the Rotary Club San Juan Del Monte Matching Grant awarding ceremony held on May 30, 2009 at the National Institutes of Health Conference Room, UP Manila.

To help indigent patients and improve the Newborn Screening performance of selected facilities in the cities of San Juan, Mandaluyong, Pasig and the province of Rizal, the Rotary Club of San Juan Del Monte allocated a total of 1,789 NBS kits. The beneficiaries were San Juan Medical Center (SJMC), Rizal Medical Center (RMC), Antipolo Community Mini- Hospital (ACMH), Antipolo District Hospital (ADH) and Mandaluyong Medical Center (MMC).



Photo shows Gov. Fuentes (seated 2nd from right) posing with the project organizer President Ramos (seated 4th from right). Others in picture seated from left are Dr. Chua, MC de Leon, Dr. Paliza, Dr. Melendres, Dr. M Salvania-Bautista, and Dr. C Padilla.

The Matching Grant is a collaboration among Rotary San Juan Del Monte, Rotary Clubs of South Everett/Mukilteo and Everett, District 5050.

The ceremony, initiated by Rotary Club of San Juan Del Monte President Marita Ramos, was well-attended by the recipient health facilities, represented by their newborn screening coordinators, Dr. Gracia Paliza (SJMC), Dr. Milagros Salvani-Bautista (RMC), Dr. Evelyn Chua (ACMH), Ms. Ma Cecilia De Leon (ADH) and Dr. Eufrosina Melendres (MMC). The officers of Rotary Club of San Juan Del Monte also came in full support including Governor Ferdinand Fuentes of District 3800. Gov. Fuentes has pledged support to the program by advocating newborn screening and replicating the efforts done to the rest of the clubs within his district. The Club's incoming president, Noli Viñas, also committed further collaboration with other sectors and assistance to the other aspects of the program, including advocacy.

The ceremony culminated with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the recipient health facilities and Rotary Club San Juan Del Monte.

## UPDATES

### G6PD Deficiency Parents' Seminar

About 250 parents attended the G6PD Deficiency Parents' Seminar held at the UP Manila College of Pharmacy Auditorium on April 24, 2009. Dr. Catherine Lynn Silao, Molecular Genetics Unit Head of the Institute of Human Genetics, talked about 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 a G6PD deficient. The parents' seminar is organized quarterly by the Newborn Screening Center – National Institutes of Health (NSC-NIH) to increase parents' awareness on G6PD deficiency. For inquiries, please call (02) 526-1725 or text 09285060960.

### First NBS Orientation for 2009

The Newborn Screening Center-NIH conducted an NBS Orientation on April 22, 2009 at the NIH Conference Room, UP Manila. The orientation provided health facilities that are yet to offer newborn screening facilities with the knowledge and skills needed to advocate newborn screening to parents and implement the program in the facility/ Fifteen participants attended the orientation. Sheryl Asis, Project Development Officer IV of NSRC, gave a brief overview of NBS while Wenalyn Viaña, Program Manager and Joanna Terrado, PDO III of NSC-NIH, discussed the implementation and administrative protocols, respectively. For inquiries, please call: (02) 526-1725. The NBS orientation may also be requested from the respective DOH - Center for Health Development.

### LGU Assembly in the Bicolandia

The Department of Health, Center for Health Development – Bicol (CHD-5) and the Newborn Screening Center-NIH, in coordination with the Newborn Screening Reference Center, will conduct an LGU Assembly in the Bicol Region on July 8, 2009. A total of 30 participants are expected to attend, consisting of governors, provincial health officers, mayors, municipal health officers and Association of Barangay Captains (ABC) presidents from different municipalities in the Bicol Region.

The Assembly aims to promote awareness and increase the numbers of newborns screened at the community level. It also aims to motivate local government units to initiate advocacy and actively participate in the program implementation, in partnership with CHD-5 as the region moves toward the goal of 85% NBS coverage in 2010.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

#### NEW COURIER FOR SENDING NBS SAMPLES

NSC - NIH is pleased to announce the inclusion of The Delbros, Inc. in its list of official couriers that provides pick-up and delivery of Newborn Screening dried blood samples. Delbros is a Filipino-owned company that has been providing courier services for more than 50 years. The health facilities from the National Capital Region (NCR) have now the option to choose from four (4) official couriers in sending NBS blood samples. Soon the services of Delbros, Inc. will also be available to the health facilities in the provinces.



**Midwives Organizations Identify Areas for Collaboration**

Last May 26, 2009, officers and members of the Philippine League of Government and Private Midwives Inc., Well Family Midwife Clinics Partnership Foundation, Inc. (WPF), Midwives Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. (MFPI), and the Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines (IMAP) met for another workshop at Aloha Hotel, Malate, Manila.

The workshop aimed to facilitate the updating on the status of the organizations' plans of action, as well as, to identify possi-

- Education of local authorities through the leagues of local officials
- Strengthening of BHWs' role as newborn screening advocates to the communities; education of barangay officials
- Input on the outline of midwifery curriculum to include newborn screening

**Service Delivery**

- Improve performance of LGU Lying-ins through the use of good standards on newborn screening implementation
- Promote midwives' accreditation to the



Photo shows officers and representatives of different midwives organizations and program implementers signing the NBS joint resolution. In this photo are (seated from left) S Jabson, P Gomez, M Caumeran, R Aguilan, Dr C Padilla, Dr J Basilio, Dr G Roan

ble areas for collaboration. Below are the agreements/points for collaboration to help increase newborn screening coverage:

**Capacity Building**

- Conduct of trainers' training for midwives with the provision of trainers' Facilitators Guide
- Tie up with health facility or WFMCs where NBS training could be performed
- Certifying of NBS trainers following compliance with the trainers qualification requirements set by NSRC
- Work on PRC points for midwives as trainers
- Tapping of CHD support to fund training for LGU midwives

**Advocacy**

- Publish a Primer for Midwives
- Distribution of NBS IEC materials

Philhealth and membership to the National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System

- Inclusion of newborn screening in all the midwives' clinics packages/services

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Inclusion of regular monitoring and evaluation of midwives clinics in the plan of action
- Conduct of monitoring and assessment and submission of reports
- Creation of a web-based e-group which include midwives organizations for quick updating, reporting and communication
- Establishment of baseline statistics on midwives

The event culminated with the formal signing of a joint resolution drafted by the group in the February 3 workshop.

**Women's Organizations Integrate NBS in their Activities**

As an offshoot of a forum entitled "Saving the Filipino Newborns through Newborn Screening: The Role of Women's Organizations in the Philippines" held last February 16, 2009, women's organizations have started integrating NBS in their activities.

Two of the organizations that attended the forum and signified plans to include NBS in their future activities were the Development Institute for Women In Asia-Pacific (DIWA) and LIKHAAN. DIWA held an NBS orientation last March 18, 2009 for more than 150 nursing students of the Philippine Women's University (PWU) and expectant parents. LIKHAAN, on the other hand, included NBS in a discussion with partner Community Health Workers (CHWs), nurses and midwives to encourage them to advocate the program. LIKHAAN also intends to enroll Tonsuya Lying in clinic in Malabon which it manages, in the list of Newborn Screening Facilities (NSF) as a sign of its commitment to advocate NBS to its constituents.

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For comments and questions, please send them to:  
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625 Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila 1000  
or email us at:  
[info@nsrc-nih.org.ph](mailto:info@nsrc-nih.org.ph)



Newborn Screening Reference Center  
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