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Official Publication of the Newborn Screening Reference Center National Institutes of Health, University of the Philippines Manila

Volume 14 | Number 1

January—March 2010

# Lamao Health Center in Bataan **Reaches Out to Homebirths**

Lamao Health Center is a barangay health station in Limay, Bataan. Limay is a first class municipality with a population of more than 50,000, one-third of which belongs to Lamao.

Lamao has a port that generates income for the town. Of the barangays in Limay, it has the biggest real property tax share from the Petron Bataan Refinery. The income is shared by the constituents and funds the Lamao Health Center.

This barangay health station provides free services to indigent families, such as medical consultations, medicines, and was presented that included newborn screening facility was laboratory examinations that include newborn screening. At that time, newborn screening.

makes the Lamao Health Center Cañete asked the health center function like a Rural Health Unit is personnel on the application process the availability of trained health for newborn screening. manpower. The Center is manned by a Rural Health Physician (Dr. Merly D. Sta Ana), a Medical Consultant (Dr. Margarita V. Velasco), several nurses and midwives, a sanitary inspector, as screening, including those delivered well as a medical technologist (Ms. at home that comprise 90% of all Charry G. Villanueva) who is also the NBS coordinator.

#### Institutionalizing newborn as one of its services. Soon, the screening in the health station

Cañete first encountered newborn sending purchase orders and mainly to home deliveries, newborn screening in late 2007 when he receiving NBS Collection kits. attended a meeting of the Department of Interior and Local Realizing what the program and during Mothers' Class. Government for Region 3. A entails checklist on health center services



Child & Maternal Care Day at Lamao Health Center, Limay, Bataan

Lamao Health Center was not Apart from adequate funds, what offering the service. Brgy. Chairman

Being a public servant, the Barangay Chairman immediately picked up the law that supports newborn screening - the Newborn Screening Act of 2004. For him, every child has a right to newborn newborns in the locality. He directed the personnel at the Lamao Health Station to offer newborn screening Lamao Health Station was filling in Lamao Barangay Chairman Cesar the institutional database form,

The idea of becoming a successful

initially far from the minds and expectations of the health station staff. The Center started offering a new service in newborn screening without a full understanding and appreciation of the manifold responsibilities attached to it. Soon, the health workers realized that they are embracing a wider spectrum of this DOH program. They began to fully understand that the service does not only entail collecting the specimen but also involves continuing advocacy, provision of financial schemes and options to the indigents, getting initially positive patients confirmed and eventually treated.

Since the health center caters screening education for mothers was intensified through prenatal visits



#### TO: ALL ACCREDITED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, BENEFIT ADMINISTRATION SECTIONS, AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

REIMBURSEMENT OF NEWBORN SCREENING TEST SUBJECT:

PhilHealth Circular No. 29, s-2009 stated that all newborns delivered in accredited facilities are required to undergo Newborn Screening (NBS) test and the filter collection card number should be written in the Part IV(C) item no. 3 of Claim Form 2 to facilitate payment of claims.

The Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC) released a new design of filter card containing a single form sheet with a detachable and adhesive filter card number/barcode. This detachable filter card number / barcode may be attached by the newborn screening facility in the PhilHealth Claim Form 2 Part IV for the NCP Claim instead of writing the filter collection card number. Claims shall be returned to the facility if they fail to indicate/ attach the said number.

This circular shall take effect for all claims 15 days after the publication in an official gazette and newspaper of general circulation. All other issuances herewith are hereby modified and repealed accordingly.

Sgd. DR. REY B AQUINO President and CEO

Date signed: 22 Jan 10

## More Health Professionals in the Communities share their Commitment to NBS

program is 85%. I know that midwives, screened inborn disorders, who interact closely with the communities, implementing the NBS program and the mission, the oaths were tied to each other, would play a vital role in achieving the midwives' roles as health practitioners. target." Dr. Carmencita Padilla, Director The knowledge and information imparted (NSRC), said in her opening remarks at their practicum. With the assistance of the the recently conducted "Midwives facilitators-NSC and CHD nurses, and Trainers' Training on Newborn Screening" last February 17-19, 2010 at the Bayview midwives performed the actual pricking at League of Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

Sixty-seven (67) midwives from all over Fabella Memorial the country attended the training that Fugoso Lying-in. aimed to produce a new set of trainers who will cascade the NBS Program, especially

and leaders of midwives organizations, the the Philippine General Hospital, Dr. Jose Hospital, and Brgy.

After acquainting them on the NBS Midwives program, the training culminated in the in the far-flung communities. The training participants' oath-taking. The oath was an covered lectures on RA 9288, the expression of their commitment as new

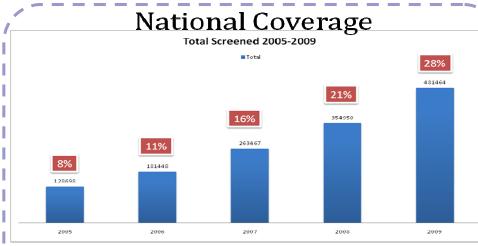
"This year, the target coverage of the significance and history of NBS, five- advocates and new trainers of the NBS program. As a show of oneness in forming a "chain of commitment".

The event was a collaborative effort of of Newborn Screening Reference Center by the lecturers prepared the midwives for the Family Health Office-Department of Health, NSRC, Newborn Screening Centers (NIH, Visayas and Mindanao), and midwives organizations (Philippine Government and Private Midwives Inc., Integrated Midwives Association of the Philippines, Association of Philippine Schools of Midwifery, Foundation of the Philippines Partnerships Inc. and Well-Family Foundation, Inc.). (MG Leaño)

### Visit www.newbornscreening.ph

Facilitators' Guidebook on

# 2009 Statistics



From 21% in 2008, the national coverage for 2009 increased to 28% using the population base of 1.7M.. This increase was a result of continued collaboration with major stakeholders, partners, and individuals who are active advocates of newborn screening.

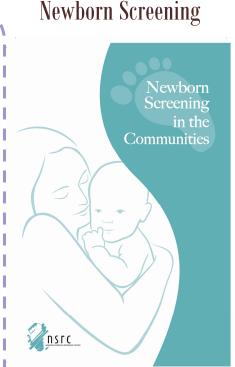
# Regional Performance 2008 - 2009





	Incidence Rate as of December 2009				
	SCREENED	CONFIRMED	PREVALENCE		
САН	1824540	217	1 : 8408		
СН	1824540	522	1 : 3495		
G6PD	1746735	34373	1 : 51		
GAL	1824540	20	1 : 91227		
РКО	1824540	15	1 : 121636		

Based on the number of confirmed cases, G6PD Deficiency has the highest incidence rate, with 1 newborn for every 51 followed by CH, CAH, Galactosemia, and PKU.



The revised Facilitators' Guidebook on Newborn Screening is being finalized and will be released in the second quarter of 2010. The revised guidebook aims to keep newborn screening facilitators and trainers abreast with new information on newborn screening. The guidebook seeks to standardize the information being relayed to all health workers.

The guidebook is divided into three modules. Module 1 introduces general aspects concerning the program. It discusses the significance and beginnings of newborn screening in the Philippines.

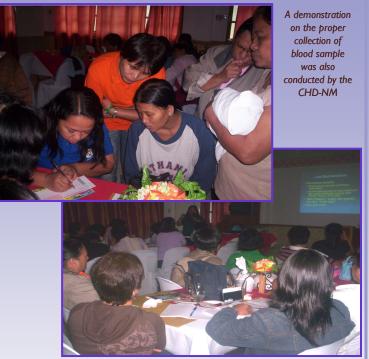
Module 2 presents the highlights of Republic Act 9288 or the Newborn Screening Act of 2004 focusing on the role of health workers and the implications of the Act on health facilities in the country.

Module 3 is devoted to the steps in implementing newborn screening in health facilities. The presentation includes the flow of operations in newborn screening.



### Orientation Training on Newborn Screening in Camiguin

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Dr. Ellenietta Gamolo, the CHD NBS Medical Coordinator delivering the lecture on the congenital metabolic disorders and the importance of newborn screening.

The Provincial Health Office of Camiguin, in coordination with the Center for Health Development–Northern Mindanao conducted a two–day live-out Orientation Training on Newborn Screening for all Municipal Health Officers, Public Health Nurses, Rural Health Midwives, and selected staff of the Catarman District Hospital in the province of Camiguin. The training was held on January 4-15, 2010 at Villa Paraiso Resort, Quiboro, Mamabajao, Camiguin.

Dr. Gretchen Cabalang, the energetic and supportive Provincial Health Officer II, welcomed the participants to the seminar. She emphasized the support given by Hon. Governor Jurdin Jesus M. Romualdo for the approval of funds for newborn screening. The goal of PHO is to screen 50% of the newborns in Mambajao this year. (M Credo)



Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health PHILIPPINES

#### Volunteerism and Public Service Combined

The Volunteer Youth Leaders (VYL) for Health – Philippines is a national collaboration of leaders of youth organizations in universities and communities in the Philippines. This novel undertaking is part of an international effort to establish the Global Partnership for Perinatal Health (GPPNH) being participated in by youth counterparts from China, Brazil, Lebanon, and India as linked by the common interest of volunteerism and public service to improve birth outcomes worldwide.

The VYL has been recently instituted through the help of the Department of Health, the Institute of Human Genetics, National Institutes of Health- UP Manila and youth organizations from UP Los Banos. Currently, the VYL is composed of 19 university- and 13-community-based organizations nationwide. The group is under the supervision of Dr. Carmencita Padilla, champion of the Newborn Screening Act of the Philippines and related advocacies (UP Manila) and Dr. Merlyn Mendioro, Genetics educator and adviser of the UPLB Genetics Society (UP Los Baños). The current flagship program of VYL is the Folic Acid Campaign that uses the youth to promote the importance of folic acid.

One of the activities conducted by the young leaders was the "Youth Leaders Newborn Screening and Folic Acid Supplementation Seminar" held on January 11, 2010 at the Farmer's Training Center Central Mindanao University (CMU). The seminar aimed to impart information and create awareness among CMU students on the importance of Newborn Screening and Folic Acid supplementation. The CMU Supreme Student Council, through the Committee of Health and Insurance, and the Institute of Human Genetics-National Institutes of Health, UP Manila joined efforts to conduct the seminar . (*VYL*)

### **UPCOMING EVENT**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Consolidating Newborn Screening Efforts in the Asia Pacific Region

As agreed upon during the Human Genome Organization-Asia Pacific (HUGO-AP) Pre-Conference entitled "Consolidating Newborn Screening Efforts in the Asia Pacific Region" held on March 30 to April 1, 2008, a follow-up meeting will be held at the Traders Hotel Manila on June 4 to 5, 2010.

The meeting aims to provide an opportunity to discuss developments and problems encountered on the collaboration and cooperative networking fostered during the first meeting. It will incorporate the same specific objectives, which were: 1) to identify the current status of newborn screening and related research within the South East Asia and Western Pacific Regions; 2) to explore national and regional health care delivery and research infrastructure needs for maximizing research/service collaborations; 3) to identify strategies for developing a regional collaborative research group; 4) to define research activities emanating from newborn screening that can complement and integrate with existing collaborations; and assess resource needs, identify currently available resources, and develop information about other possible resources. Representatives from eleven (11) countries and eight Asia-Pacific islands are expected to attend the meeting. (*R Suarez*)

## Visit www.newbornscreening.ph

# NSC-Mindanao Corner

Implementers of Newborn Screening Program in Mindanao

#### Zonal Planning Workshop—Mindanao Group

The Zonal Planning Workshop of the Mindanao Group was held on March 3 and 4, 2010 as a collaborative activity of the Department of Health and the Newborn Screening Center—Mindanao. NBS Coordinators and NBS Nurse Coordinators from CHD Regions 10, 11, 12, CARAGA and ARMM attended the workshop. Also in attendance were representatives of seven (7) DOH-retained hospitals and three (3) devolved hospitals.

The workshop aimed to strengthen newborn screening in Mindanao and achieve the national NBS target of 85% coverage. Representatives from DOH-retained and devolved hospitals presented the status of the NBS program in their facility. Issues and concerns were discussed after the presentation. Participants worked together in identifying solutions as well as strategies in increasing coverage. Various initiatives were also presented. At the end of the workshop, the participants were grouped by regions to formulate an action plan to sustain and achieve the goals of the Newborn Screening Program. (*R Ruiz*)

#### CHD SOCCSKSARGEN held its Consultative Meeting and Planning Workshop for NBS

The Center for Health Development-SOCCSKSARGEN held its Consultative Meeting and Planning Workshop for Newborn Screening Program on February 25, 2010 at Tierra Montana Hotel, General Santos City. The objectives of the meeting were to discuss baseline data of their locality and its implications, clarify issues on Newborn Screening implementations, gain doable strategies from invited speakers, enhance knowledge, attitude and practices on the program, and lastly to present newborn screening plan of action for 2010. Led by CHD-Region 12 NBS Coordinator, Ms. Lucy T. Decio, the meeting was attended by health officials from the City Hospital of General Santos, provincial hospitals of South Cotabato, Cotabato Province, and Sultan Kudarat, and two retained hospitals, Cotabato Sanitarium and Cotabato Regional Medical Center.

The program kicked off with Ms Decio's presenting the overview of the meeting and planning workshop, followed by presentations on NBS status in SOCCSKSARGEN Region and updates on NSC-Mindanao by Ms. Veronica Franco-Jumuad and Dr. Conchita Abarquez, respectively. Ms. Adelaida P. Legurpa, a midwife from Midsayap Community Hospital, and Ms Ana Lee Gokotano, a nurse from GSC Doctors Hospital, inspired the group with their sharing of best practices in implementing newborn screening in their own facilities. The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation or PhilHealth, through Dr. Antoniette A. Laido, gave an overview on PhilHealth and its Newborn Care Package. After the open forum, participants were tasked to come up with their Action Plan for 2010, with emphasizes on the achievement of the DOH goal on newborn screening coverage. These Action Plans were later presented to the group. Director Abdullah B. Dumama, Jr, MD, MPA, Director of CHD-Region 12, solidified the group's commitment through his inspiring message and show of support. (*S Guilaran*)

#### The City Health Office Malaybalay organized its 2<sup>nd</sup> G6PD Support Group Forum

The City Health Office of Malaybalay, Bukidnon continues to increase newborn screening awareness to its constituents through its various advocacy activities. One of which is the Forum on G6PD Deficiency that addresses the need for information of parents with G6PD deficient babies. On March 12, 2010, the second G6PD Deficiency Support Group Forum was held at The Garden, Malaybalay City. Dr. Conchita Abarquez, NSC-M Unit Head discussed the G6PD Deficiency to pediatricians, obstetricians and parents of G6PD positive babies from different barangays of Malaybalay. Her presentation was followed by an open forum. Also in attendance were Dr. Melrose S. Detecio,



The organizers and parents who attended the G6PD Deficiency Support Group Forum at on March 12 at Malaybalay, Bukidnon

NBS Medical Coordinator of City Health Office of Malaybalay and Dr. Dennis P. Sangalang, City Health Officer, who relayed Mayor Florencio T. Flores' message of support. The forum was very much appreciated by the parents as the City is experiencing an increasing number of newborns positive for G6PD deficiency. (*R Ruiz*)





# NSC-Visayas Corner

### Newborn Screening Consultative <sup>n</sup> Meeting in Visayas

Tacloban City- The Department of Health-Center for Health Development (CHD) Eastern Visayas, headed by Dr. Edgardo M. Gonzaga, Regional Director, in cooperation with the Newborn Screening Center-Visayas, headed by Dr. J. Edgar Winston Posecion, Unit Head of Newborn Screening Center-Visayas, held a consultative meeting for Eastern Visayas on March 2, 2010 at the DOH CHD-8 Conference Room. The event was held to evaluate the implementation of the program in the region. In line with DOH's goal of 85% coverage for 2010, different strategies were discussed to increase compliance among newborn screening facilities with the program. Areas of concern regarding project implementation were identified. Long-term and short-term solutions were formulated to address identified problems.

The dialogue with Regional Director Dr. Gonzaga, who is also from Iloilo, was productive. He promised continued support to the program. He outlined several ways to improve coverage in the region, such as sponsoring trainings for in-house pediatric endocrinologists. He was even interested in setting-up confirmatory centers for G6PD.

The group concluded that there is a need to intensify information dissemination to the public and conduct trainings for medical practitioners to achieve its goal. Establishing social networks to provide financial aid for the less fortunate was also emphasized. (D Buensalido) "For together we stand, divided we fall," a striking line from a song that most of us are familiar with. Indeed, one man is a crucial ingredient to a team,

**NSCV Breaks the Ice this Summer** 

but one man cannot make a team. To show the importance of teamwork, the Newborn Screening Center-Visayas (NSC-V) conducted its first team building activity along the white powder beaches and captivating sceneries of the tropical paradise island of Boracay on March 20-21, 2010. The two-day event was designed to increase the extent of individual inputs which are combined to achieve maximum effect in the pursuit of a common goal, that is, to become a premier globally competitive and socially responsible center of excellence in the diagnosis and comprehensive care of children with inborn errors of metabolism and other genetic disorders.

Several group activities were carried out on the cool shores of the island that were eagerly participated by the NSC-V staff. During their free time, the team beat the summer heat by exploring the lush place, indulging in the gastronomic delights in the place, and trying out the exhilarating amenities the island offers. The gathering also served as an opportunity to welcome the new staff members of the Center.

With a revitalized sense of teamwork and camaraderie, the NSRC family looks forward to bigger challenges and responsibilities in fulfilling the Center's goal of safeguarding babies' health through newborn screening. *(R Sumaguio)* 



### 1<sup>st</sup> Newborn Screening Coordinator's Meeting for 2010

Iloilo City - Every year, the Newborn Screening Center- Visayas (NSC-V) looks for new and better ways to improve the quality of the services it renders. The 1<sup>st</sup> Newborn Screening Coordinators' Meeting for 2010 was held on February 11, 2010 at the West Visayas State University Medical Center (WVSUMC) conference room.

The meeting was presided by Dr. J Edgar Posecion, NSC-V Unit Head and attended by the NSC-V Administrative Staff, together with CHD Medical and Nurse Coordinators from Regions 6 (Lizandra Sante), Region 7 (Dr. Nayda Bautista, Myra Leonora Salvaleon), and Region 8 (Dr. Lilibeth Andrade, Virginia Merchadesch). It aimed to find ways to evaluate and improve the Newborn Screening Program in the Visayas and to determine ways to increase the program's coverage.

The meeting started with the presentation of data on the number of unsatisfactory samples. The over-all performance of Regions 6, 7 and 8 was reviewed based on the 2008 and 2009 reports from the Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC). Each region was given a chance to identify the obstacles and challenges that needed to be addressed. The common needs that emerged were information dissemination and education, a more vigorous advocacy program, and trainings.

In conclusion, all parties agreed and the meeting paved the way for a new understanding between the NSC-V and its coordinators. *(R Barrios).* 

## Visit www.newbornscreening.ph

# NSC-NIH Corner

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# ACTIVITIES

#### Newborn Screening Center-NIH holds Planning Workshop

The Laboratory and the Follow-up Unit of the Newborn Screening Center-NIH had a joint planning workshop last January 27 to 29, 2010. The center was able to set the golden standards for all deliverables on screening coverage, patient recall, laboratory algorithms, and timely collection and forwarding of samples. Strategies and activities were plotted to achieve the golden standards. The center is one with the Department of Health in achieving the goal of 85% screening coverage for 2010. NSC-NIH will work closely with the eight (8) Centers for Health Development in Luzon in realizing its vision of saving all newborns from possible death and mental retardation. (*J Terrado*)



Ms. Elouisa Reyes, NSC-NIH Unit Head and the staff of NSC-NIH during the planning workshop

#### First G6PD Deficiency Parents' Seminar for 2010

The first G6PD Deficiency Parents' Seminar for 2010 was held at the UP Manila College of Pharmacy Auditorium on March 19, 2010. In attendance were around 150 parents, including representatives from the Manila Health Department and LGU Lying-Ins. The speakers included Dr. Catherine Lynn Silao, Molecular Genetics Program Coordinator of the Institute of Human Genetics who talked about the genetic nature of the disorder and Dr. Beatriz Gepte, Hematology-Oncology Consultant of the Philippine Children's Medical Center who discussed the clinical manifestations, drugs and chemicals that must be avoided by a G6PD deficient, et al. The next parents' seminar is tentatively set in June 2010. For inquiries please call (02) 526-1725 or text 09285060960. (*J Terrado*)

#### NSC-NIH and CHDs in Luzon meet at Zonal Planning Workshop



The Regional Medical and Nurse Coordinators in Luzon participating in the activities prepared by the Newborn Screening Center—National Institutes of Health

To intensify advocacy on newborn screening and, thus, increase the number of babies screened in Luzon, the Newborn Screening Center-NIH, in collaboration with the Department of Health Family Health Office (DOH-FHO) conducted a Zonal Planning Workshop on February 25-26, 2010 at the Kimberly Hotel Manila. The workshop was attended by all Newborn Screening Coordinators from the Center for Health Development in Luzon and representatives from DOH-FHO. The meeting was also intended to improve NBS implementation at the regional level. The Newborn Screening Center-NIH headed by Lui Reyes, together with Wenalyn Viana, Program Manager, and Joanna Terrado, Project Development Officer, conducted various teambuilding activities and small group discussions. Comprehensive planning activities were accomplished at the end of the workshop. Each region presented strategies based on specific targets drawn from their regional profile and statistics. The strategies were defined in order to target specific provinces that needed to be prioritized.

Dr. Juanita Basilio emphasized to the participants that it is possible to achieve targets if the group works together as a team. During the workshop, it was announced that FHO would extend assistance and support to the activities of the Centers for Health and Development (CHDs). (*W Viaña*)

#### Maple Syrup Urine Disease Kit Evaluation

Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD) is an autosomal recessive disorder caused by decreased activity of branched-chain- $\alpha$ -ketoacid dehydrogenase, one of the enzymes involved in the degradation of leucine, isoleucine and valine. If left untreated, the clinical course of classical MSUD is often progressively severe, including overwhelming neonatal illness and eventually death.

In a recent study conducted by Dr. Sylvia C. Estrada, Head of NBS Followup Committee of NSC-NIH and Ms. Charity M. Jomento, Quality Assurance Officer of Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC), MSUD cases were incidentally detected in PKU screening. The confirmed cases of MSUD were significantly higher in the Philippine newborn population than Phenylketonuria (PKU), thus its inclusion in the newborn screening panel is being highly considered.

The National Newborn Screening Comprehensive System (NCNBSS) is exploring inclusion of MSUD in the newborn screening panel of disorders. NSRC is currently evaluating kits for this particular test. Ms. Jomento conducted initial evaluation of the Zentech Reagent (formerly known as Gamma) in Leige, Belgium on March 1-5, 2010. More kits are scheduled to be evaluated. The result of the evaluation will be presented to the Advisory Committee on Newborn Screening (ACNBS) for review and approval.

(C Jomento)

#### (Continued from page 1)

#### **Funding Source**

Since Newborn Screening at the Lamao Health Center started in late 2008, the service was not included in the 2008 budget. Nonetheless, the barangay funded an initial 20 NBS Collection Kits. NBS was only partially subsidized at that time. The P300 paid for by the patient was used to purchase the next set of 20 NBS Kits. The other 10 kits was paid for by the barangay. This was the situation until early 2009.

At this time, Health Councilor Rosario R. Perez and the rest of the Barangay Council Members signed a resolution supporting the DOH advocacy on NBS. The resolution stipulated that part of the barangay's annual budget would be allotted for NBS, making the service free for all Lamao newborns. The resolution also designated the month of October as NBS Month. The observance is part of the nationwide celebration of the National Newborn Screening Awareness Week.

For 2010, the Lamao Health Center, together with the Lamao Barangay Council plans to set up a birthing facility to ensure that all delivered babies can avail of free NBS. The project is called **100% SCREENED BABIES**.

(C Villanueva/ L Reyes)



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