

## The Benefit of a Prepaid Health Program in the Modern Era *By Ida Magnolia Yambot-Reyes, MD*

### Analysis

In December 2009, the City of Manila opened one of its newest community hospitals, the Justice Jose Abad Santos General Hospital (JJASGH, previously Justice Jose Abad Santos Mother and Child Hospital), in Binondo, Manila, to provide affordable and accessible quality health care service among its less privileged constituents.



The Department of Health accredited the JJASGH in 2010, hence integrating all the public health programs into the hospital's policies including the Newborn Screening Program.



Image of JJASGH from www.manila.gov.ph

The JJASGH Administration initially implemented a newborn screening policy that encouraged the registered expectant mothers to pay for their baby's newborn screening on an instalment basis, with the provision to start during their prenatal checkup.

JJASGH. The program is the enhancement of the previous program that entails the integration of the different hospital departments to obtain a 100% performance of the newborn screening.

At first, the said program went well, with an observed good compliance among the registered mothers. But as the services of JJASGH became extensive, encouraging expectant mothers from far away localities to visit the hospital, the number of deliveries grew more than double of the expected. Half of these deliveries were registered and other half unregistered mothers.

The said program involves the following departments: Nursing Division, Administrative-Admission Department, Medical Social Service, Accounting Division and PhilHealth Office, Ancillary-Laboratory Division, Medical Division-Obstetrics and Pediatrics, Out-Patient Department, OB Emergency Room Department, Labor/Delivery/Operating Rooms, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and Hospital Security.

The problems arise from the unregistered deliveries, who have not anticipated the obligation to pay for the newborn screening of their child, and the number of dissention was noted. It caused the decreasing trend of the newborn screening performance in the hospital alarming the Administration to devise new guidelines to improve the current program.

After giving birth, the nurse-in-charge of the patient will update the records in the Central Logbook. The Ward Nursing Attendant will provide a list of babies more than the 24th hour-of-life and

make sure that babies in the list undergo screening. Blood extraction is scheduled daily at 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Medical Technologist (on weekdays) and the Nursing Office Staff (weekends) will perform the screening in accordance with the list provided by the Nursing Attendant. After the process, the Nursing Attendant will fill up item number 5 in the Central Logbook and will complete the data of the Clearance Stub. The Clearance Stub will be presented to the security personnel upon the baby's discharge, and all the Clearance Stubs will be accounted for. All results will be noted in the Central Logbook by the Medical Technologist, underscoring abnormal ones to be referred to specialists for further work-up and management.

The screening fee will be refunded in cases of pregnancy losses like miscarriage, stillbirth, and neonatal death.

The prepaid health program will benefit and lessen financial constraints on the part of the expectant mothers. With the implementation of the new program, the objective of 100% screening coverage has been successfully accomplished.

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## Cebu Hosts PKU, MSUD and Gal Clinic

Newborn Screening Center-Visayas and the Centers for Health Development in Regions 6, 7, and 8 gathered confirmed patients with Galactosemia, Phenylketonuria, and Maple Syrup Urine Disease and their families in Cebu City, June 10-11.

The gathering aimed to evaluate the condition of the patients and provide medical and dietary counseling to parents and primary caregivers. Patients found positive with the said metabolic disorders require long-term management to ensure wellness and protect them from deleterious complications brought by the disorders.

Dr. Barbra Charina Cavan, geneticist and metabolic specialist, conducted the medical evaluation of the patients, while Elizabeth Limos, a metabolic dietician from the Philippine General Hospital, provided dietary counseling to the patients.

Dietary management, consultation, and counseling help parents and caregivers better understand the importance of compliance to prescribed treatments diets and of food preparation.

It was also a great opportunity for the families of confirmed babies to meet other children and families who share the same condition and share their thoughts and best practices.

In numbers, the attendees were composed of 11 PKU patients, 5 Galactosemia patients, and an MSUD patient. Medical specialists, pediatricians, dieticians, and follow-up nurses from referral health facilities also graced the event. *YCDemegillo*



Saved babies and their families mingle with NSC-Visayas and CHD staff during a reunion in Cebu City.

## Visayas NSFs Regroup for Better NBS



Participants from the hospitals in Negros Occidental strike a pose for a "wacky shot" during the NBS Reorientation Program in Bacolod City.

To offer better newborn screening (NBS) service in the region, Newborn Screening Center (NSC)-Visayas and the Centers for Health Development implemented the Newborn Screening Reorientation Program, which would help newborn screening facilities (NSFs) reinforce basic knowledge of the NBS program and its process.

Besides addressing operational issues, the program also sought for NBS teams to acquire skills in blood sample collection techniques.

The Reorientation Program was done in clusters in the different provinces in the Visayas. On June 26-28, NSC-Visayas and CHDs implemented the program for the NSFs in Negros Occidental, one of the provinces that generated highest NBS samples in the whole of the region.

The participants, who were housed at O Hotel in Bacolod City, saw the more detailed process of newborn screening to appreciate more the value of their role in the NBS program. *MMTabaosares*

## In Focus

### George Y. Yabes Maternity Home: Service beyond Newborn Screening

Brgy. Malalag in the town of Maitum, Saranggani Province is 263 kilometers, or four hours away, from Davao City. In this barangay stands George Y. Yabes Maternity Home, a government-run maternity home. The facility no access to the nearest G6PD Deficiency Confirmatory Center which services are much needed by parents of babies with positive result in G6PD deficiency in the newborn screening.

The solution to the hassle of an expensive trip to the nearest blood extraction facility, the General Santos Doctors' Hospital, a two-hour drive from Barangay Malalag in Maitum, is now within reach.

Rosalinda Roxas, the NBS Coordinator of the George Y. Yabes Maternity Home, felt she had to do something about the low turnover of patients undergoing confirmatory test on G6PD Deficiency. She also had a hard time motivating parents to have their babies undergo the confirmatory tests. And this disinterest was disheartening. All these prompted Rosalinda to go to local officers and help find a solution.

Fortunately, Dr. Junie F. Basmillo, the Municipal Health Officer, was there to listen. Rosalinda was allowed to provide free transportation and meals to parents who wanted their babies confirmed. This year, she started bringing parents and their babies straight to

*Continued on page 8...*



Mothers and their babies find refuge in George Y. Yabes Maternity Home in Malalag, Maitum, Saranggani Province.

## Maramag, Bukidnon Runs for Newborn Screening Awareness



The Newborn Screening Committee of the Bukidnon Provincial Hospital (BPH) in Maramag, Bukidnon, held its first Fun Run in the streets of Maramag, May 18.

Led by Dr. Mary Ann E. Alvisor, Newborn Screening Committee Coordinator, professional and amateur runners along with the Newborn Screening Committee members gathered at the BPH campus early morning on a Saturday to promote newborn screening awareness through banner displays and distribution of newborn screening memorabilia.

A total of 252 runners put on their shoes to finish courses of 1, 3, and 5 kilometers.

Gendon Sadino bagged first place for the 5 kilometers category, Ryan Mark Anciano for the 3 kilometers category, and Leiland Bongcas for the 1 kilometer category. Participants who successfully completed the race were given certificates.

Also in attendance were Aple Dowannie Tadias, NSC-Mindanao Research Nurse, and Romer Guerbo, member of the Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health Secretariat. *EEnguito*

## Zamboanga Peninsula NSFs Hold Cluster Meeting

The Center for Health Development (CHD)-Region 9, in coordination with Newborn Screening Center (NSC)-Mindanao, held its Cluster Meeting on Newborn Screening with Zamboanga del Sur newborn screening facilities (NSFs) at the Bay Plaza Hotel in Pagadian City, June 28.

The Cluster Meeting brought together 52 NBS implementers from 46 NSFs in Zamboanga del Sur.

The meeting aimed to identify the barriers that hinder the achievement of target NBS coverage in the Zamboanga Peninsula. It also served as a venue to update NSFs with the current developments in the program. *Continued on page 8...*

NEWS BRIEFS

## NSC-CL Learns the Ropes

The Newborn Screening Center-Central Luzon (NSC-CL) underwent teambuilding rope courses organized by LUBID, Inc., a pioneer in adventure-based group dynamics programs in the Philippines, at Clearwater Resort and Country Club, Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, June 10.

The one-day workshop aimed to promote camaraderie among NSC-CL staff through several team challenges. Each activity had its own strict rules and consequences; hence, everyone needed to devise strategies and use teamwork to accomplish tasks.

The non-traditional outdoor activities brought out among the staff character, solidarity, and confidence, which are necessary values for NSC-CL organizational development. Furthermore, these experiences deepened their commitment in being part of a high-performing team.



NSC-CL staff pose for photo after completing the challenges prepared by Lubid, Inc. in Pampanga.

## Meet the NSC-CL Staff

Running samples and managing cases from Regions 1, 2, 3, and CAR, the Newborn Screening Center-Central Luzon (NSC-CL) has been in operations for three years now and has worked closely with the Centers for Health Development to increase newborn screening coverage in the regions.

With very capable and service-oriented staff, NSC-CL has steadily increased its coverage with close monitoring and conduct of regular training programs and facility visits. This development was also made possible by good partnerships and strong support from the local government units.

The following are members of the NSC-CL team:

<b>Unit Head</b> NAME: <b>Florencio C. Dizon</b> LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years	<b>Administrative Support Staff</b> NAME: <b>Gloria G. Suarez</b> LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years	NAME: <b>Richard D. Bondoc</b> LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years
<b>Laboratory Manager</b> NAME: <b>Michelle T. Miranda</b> LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years	NAME: <b>Arthur S. Agustin</b> LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years	NAME: <b>Carl Lester M. Angeles</b> LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years
		NAME: <b>Aileen M. Dimalanta</b> LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years

NAME: **Rachel Marie Suarez**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years

NAME: **Jellie Malabanan**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years

NAME: **Kim Adelton M. Dionisio**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 2 years and 7 months

NAME: **Myrna P. Damasco**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 1 year and 6 months

**Project Development Officer**  
NAME: **Myca Camille M. Reyes**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years

**Follow-Up Nurses**  
NAME: **Maria Regina C. Yutuc**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 2 years

NAME: **Don Exequiel Q. Santos**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 7 months

**Analysts**  
NAME: **Jerome R. Comelio**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years

NAME: **Lovely C. Canales**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years

NAME: **Adelaida D. Mallari**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 3 years

NAME: **Cindy D. Miguel**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 2 years

NAME: **Christine H. Calagui**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 1 year and 6 months

We also welcome the new members of the newborn screening family in Central Luzon.

**Analyst**  
NAME: **Robin Christian G. Cao**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 7 months

**Administrative Support Staff**  
NAME: **Vicky C. Camilas**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 6 months

NAME: **Nadine Victoria L. Layson**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 2 months

**Project Development Officers**  
NAME: **Roland M. Alcantara**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 2 months

NAME: **Nikki D. Dela Cruz**  
LENGTH OF SERVICE TO NSCCL: 2 months



# VOLUNTEER YOUTH LEADERS FOR HEALTH



## Reflections

### Youth Save Babies Too

*Robin Charles O. Ramos, VYLH-Mindanao Volunteer Coordinator*

The youth definitely have the power to save the future. The future of Filipino babies, that is.

Through active involvement in newborn screening advocacy, which saves lives of children through the early detection of metabolic disorders, I have been given the opportunity to educate people.

It is in newborn screening that I found my niche even if I was not professionally trained in medicine or health sciences. I saw the importance of participation and the vital role I play in educating the people in the community . . . and the hope and empowerment that come with knowledge.

Knowledge is the key toward a successful reduction in the neonatal mortality rate. And it is also in knowledge that we can achieve a hundred percent coverage of newborn screening.

In my hometown, Digos City, I found myself in Valencia Sanitarium and Hospital Foundation, Inc. (VSHF) as a Human Resource Development staff. VSHF is a non-stock, non-profit, tertiary healthcare institution of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Like the hospitals, I'd like to be committed to saving lives through newborn screening.

I saw how VSHF help people.

VSHF laid out programs and plans with the hospitals and the community for increasing awareness on newborn screening. For example, the Newborn Screening Committee in my town, led by Chief Medical Technologist Lylibeth P. Halasan, met with committee members in May 31. The Committee reviewed the hospital's policy and proposed programs for newborn screening, resulting in the allotment of 2 hours every Friday, from

3 to 5 p.m., for nurses and volunteers to educate patients on the importance of the newborn screening.

VSHF also set a series of trainings and educational workshops for nurses to fully equip them for advocacy. NBS posters will be placed in strategic areas in the hospital as well.

VSHF saw the need, too, for G6PD forums and counseling programs for parents and other stakeholders, which will be conducted quarterly in collaboration with the City Health Office (CHO) of Valencia City, the Center for Health Development-Region 10, Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao, and Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health Philippines.

Meanwhile, the hospital resolved to organize a hospital-based organization, a VYLH-Philippines hospital chapter, to empower the volunteers in reaching out communities in Valencia City and other neighboring municipalities of Bukidnon. Its main activity would be conducting a ride-on advocacy on NBS and other advocacies of VYLH-Philippines, such as folic-acid supplementation and rare diseases, during medical outreach programs.

Finally, VSHF formally launched its newborn screening program on July 5. Dr. Juniver Flores, Medical Officer IV, and the Newborn Screening Program Coordinator of the Valencia City CHO graced the event.

This is where I come in to honor my commitment to promote newborn screening advocacy.

This commitment will only be realized with the constant help from and collaboration with partners in the government and private sectors, youth organizations and other stakeholders,

## Summit Sets Groundwork for Expanded NBS

The National Center for Disease Prevention and Control (NCDPC), in collaboration with the Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC), conducted the Summit for Strategic and Directional Groundworking on Expanded Newborn Screening, a training-workshop for the capacity-building of all Newborn Screening Centers (NSCs), in Iloilo City, June 14-16.

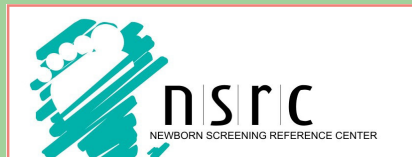
The summit addressed the constant need for continuing information, education, re-education, and training programs among NSC personnel on the procedures, operations, and management of newborn screening.

Hosted by the NSC-Visayas and Center for Health Development-Western Visayas, the said event also served as a venue to gather all personnel from NSCs nationwide to train and launch the Expanded Newborn Screening program as approved by the Advisory Committee on Newborn Screening in August 2012.

The three-day workshop aimed to improve the coordination and collaborative operation of all NSCs in relation to the Expanded Newborn Screening program.

and full support from the VSHF.

And while I'm at it, why not dream to become the Center for Newborn Screening Program in the City of Valencia and the Province of Bukidnon?



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## 5 New G6PD Centers Open

Five more Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency Centers were opened in the country to make the confirmatory test more accessible to the public.

All G6PD Deficiency centers and laboratories provide immediate relay of G6PD confirmatory results to a patient's family, attending physician, and NSCs whether a confirmed positive or negative case.

The new G6PD Centers are the following:

1. Davao Medical School Foundation (Davao City)
2. Dr. Pablo O. Torre Sr. Memorial Hospital (Bacolod City)
3. The Medical City (Pasig City)
4. Brent Hospital (Zamboanga City; opened in 2013)
5. Lipa Medix Medical Center (Lipa City; opened in 2013)

G6PD Deficiency Centers comply with the standards of and participate in the International QA Program set by the Newborn Screening Reference Center to ensure good laboratory practices.

A G6PD confirmatory test costs PhP 400, which was set by the Department of Health through Department Memorandum No. 2009-0139.

*Note: All facilities interested to offer G6PD confirmatory test and provide a Clinical Chemistry instrument capable of running the G6PD confirmatory tests (Cobas Mira, Pentra 400, etc.) must send a letter of intent addressed both to the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control (NCDPC) and Bureau of Health Services Facilities (BHFS) of the Department of Health.*



## NEWBORN SCREENING SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

### 11th Newborn Screening Convention Manila Hotel, One Rizal Park, 0913 Manila October 3-4, 2013 "Facing the Challenges of Expanded Newborn Screening"

#### Scientific Programme

##### DAY 1

Time	Topics	Speakers
Oct 3, 2013 11:00 AM	Registration <i>(No lunch .Snacks to be served in the afternoon.)</i>	
1:00 PM	Opening Ceremonies Welcome Remarks	Rowena A. Pua, MD President, NSSPI
	Opening Remarks	Carmencita D. Padilla, MD, MAHPS Director, NSRC
	Messages	Hon. Enrique T. Ona Secretary, DOH
		Vicente Y Belizario, Jr., MD, MTM&H Executive Director, NIH
	Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Vicente Y. Belizario, Jr., MD, MTM&H
	Keynote Address	Usec. Janette L. Garin, MD
	Opening of Exhibit	
2:00 - 2:40	Plenary 1: Expanded Newborn Screening: Status Report	
	Newborn Screening Program 1996-2013	Juanita A Basilio, MD, MPH
	Expanded Newborn Screening Program	Carmencita D Padilla MD, MAHP

Please visit [www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph) to download the complete Scientific Programme.

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## George Y. Yabes Maternity Home . . . from page 4

the Davao Medical School Foundation Hospital's confirmatory laboratory in Davao City.

Of the nine deficient cases of Rosalinda's maternity home, eight were confirmed. The Municipal Health Office also gave parents of babies with positive confirmatory result a laminated brochure of prohibited drugs and foods as guide in taking care of their children.

In the face of a seemingly insurmountable difficulty, Rosalinda has shown that true public health service is not only providing newborn screening to babies but also arming parents with the chance and the right tools in helping their children live normal lives despite birth disorders. *RAguilar*

## Zamboanga Peninsula NSF's . . . from page 4

DOH representatives from Zamboanga del Sur and the technical staff from the Provincial Health Office and non-NSF regional health units participated in the event along with the CHD-Region 9 team, Nerissa Gutierrez, NBS Program Manager, and Apryl Joy Calibot, NBS Nurse.

Resource speakers include Dr. Ruvelinda Grace Uy, Medical Specialist II of ZCMC; Dr. Conchita Abarquez, Unit Head of NSC-Mindanao; Dr. Eleonor Du, Chair of Newborn Screening Follow-up Team Mindanao; Sheila Mae Guilaran, Program Manager; and Perly Bermudez, Project Development Officer II of NSC-Mindanao. *ACalibot*



Staff of the Zamboanga Peninsula NSF's meet for a Cluster Meeting gather in Pagadian City.



Newborn Screening Reference Center  
National Institutes of Health  
University of the Philippines Manila  
Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila 1000

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# newborn screening

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## All about the NBS Awards

### What's Inside

2 The Benefit of a Prepaid Health Program in the Modern Era

Cebu Hosts PKU, MSUD and Gal Clinic  
Visayas NSF's Regroup for Better NBS

George Y. Yabes Maternity Home: Service beyond Newborn Screening

4 Maramag, Bukidnon Runs for Newborn Screening Awareness

Zamboanga Peninsula NSF's Hold Cluster Meeting

NSC-CL Learns the Ropes  
Meet the NSC-CL Staff

6 Youth Save Babies, Too

Summit Sets Groundwork for Expanded NBS

5 New G6PD Centers Open

11th Newborn Screening Convention

Every two years, the Department of Health (DOH) and the Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC) recognize practitioners, stakeholders, and partners who help and contribute in newborn screening (NBS) advocacy, education, implementation, and institutionalization.

The NBS Awards ceremonies are held in October during the celebration of the National Newborn Screening Week usually held on the first week of the month as mandated by Presidential Proclamation No. 540.

Three types of awards are given to institutions, organizations, and individuals: Achievers Awards, Exemplary Awards, and Special Awards. In 2013, a fourth category is introduced, recognizing longstanding exceptional coverage

Achievers Awards. The Newborn Screening Achievers Awards are given to Newborn Screening Facilities (NSFs) whose performance rating meets the criteria set by DOH and NSRC.

Exemplary Achievers Awards. The Newborn Screening Exemplary Awards are given to NSF's whose performance rating meets the criteria set by DOH and NSRC for two consecutive years.

Special Awards. The Special Awards recognize the efforts of an individual or group that has made exemplary contribution to the newborn screening program in the form of the following initiatives or innovations: (1) NBS



Some honorees of the 2011 NBS Awards receive their plaques from the DOH and DILG.

advocacy in their locality, (2) NBS financing scheme, (3) NBS financing scheme, (4) community support, (5) local government unit (LGU) support, (6) linkages with other agencies or organizations, and (7) other initiatives.

Hall of Fame Awards. The Hall of Fame Awards are given to NSF's that are consistently on the list of Exemplary Achievers for five awards ceremonies.

The awards and recognitions are based on a given set of established criteria. One of the selection criteria for NSF's is to comply with target newborn screening coverage for their respective regions.

For the criteria on and other information about the NBS Awards, please log on to the official website of NSRC at [www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph).

Number of Babies Screened as of June 2013

COUNTER: 4,499,548