

NBS Training and ENBS Orientation in MIMAROPA



The Department of Health–Regional Office (DOH-RO) 4B conducted the Newborn Screening Training and Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS) Orientation of Health Facilities in MIMAROPA at the Fernandina 88 Suites Hotel, Quezon City, on May 6-8, 2015.

Twenty-seven participants trooped to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center on the first day to have their heel prick practicum. It was followed by a laboratory exposure at the Newborn Screening Center–National Institutes of Health (NSC-NIH). The exposure included an observation of the Center's daily operations. Participants were also briefed on how unfit and unsatisfactory samples cause delay in the running of tests.

The resource speakers were Dr. Jacinth Lois S. Tuazon, Medical Officer IV of DOH-RO 4B; Abigail Estrada, Senior



Participants from Batangas during one of the ENBS Orientation roadshows

Social Insurance Specialist of PhilHealth; Hermes Pascua, NBS Coordinator of DOH-National Capital Regional Office; Dr. April Grace Berbos, Unit Head of NSC-NIH; and Joanna Decano-Terrado, Project Development Officer of NSC-NIH. Topics covered included NBS 6-Panel Test of Disorders, PhilHealth Newborn Care Package, Proper Blood Collection, Expanded Newborn Screening, Unfit and Unsatisfactory Samples, and Administrative Mechanics. *JATerrado, FLCamayang*

HI-5 Caravan Parades to Occidental Mindoro



The Department of Health–Regional Office (DOH-RO) 4B held the High Impact 5 (HI-5) Caravan in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, on May 27, 2015. The caravan included newborn screening being under the maternal and infant care on counseling, health promotion, and awareness.

Ma. Teresa M. Du, Regional NBS Coordinator of DOH-RO 4B, informed 120 pregnant mothers about the newborn screening program and emphasized the importance of screening immediately after 24 hours after birth.

HI-5 is designed to promote five major health programs identified by the DOH: maternal and infant care, child care, HIV/AIDS, Service Delivery Network, and intensifying the health operations in the priority poverty program areas at the provincial and municipal levels.

Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, will host the next HI-5 Caravan on July 8, 2015. *JATerrado, FLCamayang*



IN FOCUS

Dr. Ricardo Y. Ladrado Memorial Hospital

Dr. Ricardo Y. Ladrado Memorial Hospital, a newborn screening facility (NSF) in Lambunao, Iloilo, came up with a simple yet clever way to have an efficient, clutter-free workplace.

The hospital's NBS team organized the workplace so that everything is accessible and easily identifiable. For example, the team's workplace has a custom-made cabinet that has nine compartments. Each compartment is appropriately labelled, and its contents are logically ordered. Pink brochures were separated from the filter cards, and so are the lancets and pertinent forms. Patients' results were arranged by date and separated from the summaries, which are kept in a separate file.

The cabinet also has transparent glass doors, making everything visible. The drying rack for the newly extracted blood samples is kept in one of the compartments and is at eye level. This practice ensures that samples are not exposed to contaminants and are immediately sent out.

The hospital's technique was observed during one of the facility visits conducted by the Department of Health–Regional Office 6 and Newborn Screening Center–Visayas on May 27, 2015. The NBS Team is headed by Annabel Halago. *MTabaosares*



Top: The custom-made cabinet stores newborn screening supplies and does some more. Bottom: The Newborn Screening Team of Dr. Ricardo Y. Ladrado Memorial Hospital (left to right): Ma. Janet Lebuna; Arman Casa, Chief Nurse; Jehan Pillo, and Anabelle Halago together with Tim Dalde, NBS Nurse Coordinator of DOH-RO6, and Meryll Mae Tabaosares, PDO of NSC-Visayas.

Sharing Ideas for NBS Implementation

To facilitate hospitals and health offices share accomplishments, challenges, and best practices, the Department of Health–National Capital Regional Office conducted the Program Implementation Review at the Sunrise Holiday Mansion, Royal Tagaytay Estate, Alfonso, Cavite, on May 27-29, 2015.

The three-day activity was attended by newborn screening coordinators of DOH Retained Hospitals, local government unit (LGU) hospitals, and LGU City Health Offices in Metro Manila.

Several speakers were also invited to update the coordinators on the newborn screening program. Ma. Elouisa Reyes, Assistant Director for Program Support of the Newborn

Screening Reference Center, shared the newborn screening best practices and program updates, while Dr. April Grace Berbos, Newborn Screening Center–National Institutes of Health (NSC-NIH) Unit Head, reiterated the consequences of unfit and unsatisfactory samples.

Moreover, Dr. Isabel Carluen-Nario, NSC-NIH Follow-up Head, lectured on short-term recall, while Dr. Angelica Tomas, Continuity Clinic Head, discussed the Continuity Clinic's flow of operations. Abigail Estrada, Senior Social Insurance Specialist, clarified the issues on the PhilHealth Newborn Care Package, while Dr. Mary Ann Abacan, clinical geneticist and metabolic specialist, discussed the medical management of metabolic disorders in the newborn screening panel. Elizabeth Limos,

Continued on page 5 . . .



NSC-Mindanao Partners with DSWD Region 11

On June 2, 2015, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office 11 in Baguio District, Davao City, held a meeting with its area coordinators, civic organizations, and non-government and government agencies in Davao City to establish productive and effective linkages in the promotion of health and the prevention of diseases, most especially in maternal and child care.

Newborn Screening Center (NSC)–Mindanao gladly heeded the call and was among the government agencies that attended and partnered with their Family Development Session (FDS). FDS meets regularly with partners for further collaboration and detailed plans of actions and activities.

The meeting also highlighted the implementation of Millennium Developmental Goals 4 and 5, which are to reduce child mortality and to improve maternal health. *ATadlas*

NSC-Mindanao Joins HI-5 Caravan in Digos City

Newborn Screening Center (NSC)–Mindanao offered newborn screening services during the High Impact 5 (HI-5) Caravan at the city gymnasium in Digos City on June 17, 2015.

HI-5 is a national strategy of the Department of Health, in partnership with different stakeholders including other national government agencies, local government units, non-government organizations, and partner agencies, to assist in attaining an optimum level of service satisfaction for Filipinos. It intensifies health promotion efforts among mothers, children, adolescents,

Continued on page 8 . . .



Expecting parents read the FAQs on newborn screening during one of their visits at Zamboanga del Norte Medical Center.

IN FOCUS

Zamboanga del Norte Medical Center: NBS at Its Best

In 2010, Zamboanga del Norte Medical Center (ZNMC) established its own newborn screening (NBS) system.

The system worked. And it still does.

It is the hospital's standard operating procedure that the NBS team shall conduct awareness and advocacy campaigns during confinement of mothers and upon collection of NBS samples. The mothers, parents, and guardians are made aware that NBS is mandated by law to screen babies for certain genetic and metabolic disorders. Once confirmed, afflicted babies will be provided with timely intervention, thereby avoiding death and associated disabilities.

Other than the NBS team, members of the Out-Patient Department and Family Planning Department of the hospital also help in the promotion of NBS.

The first challenge encountered by ZNMC in the implementation of NBS was the unwillingness of the mothers to have their babies undergo NBS because of financial concerns. In 2011, this challenge was overcome by incorporating NBS fee as part of the hospital bill. Another challenge was the unwillingness of parents to submit their babies who had had positive results to further tests and intervention. This was especially true to indigent parents whose were difficult to reach and unwilling to travel to birthing clinics.

To address these challenges, ZNMC did a three-tier approach. First, ZNMC tried to reach patients via calls and text messages. If there was no response, ZNMC called on them through the AM-FM radio. And if there was still no response, the team would conduct house visits to ensure that newborns with positive and confirmed results would get intervention.

In some cases, the team would walk marshy trails to reach patients' houses. The team also had to cross rice fields, coconut plantations, and grassy areas.

ZNMC not only showed passion in advancing NBS, it also had full community support through the local government unit.

ZNMC remained strong in the implementation of the NBS program. In fact, it reported a coverage of 98% and 97% in 2013 and 2014, respectively. These numbers will not be changing anytime soon. *BLBohol*

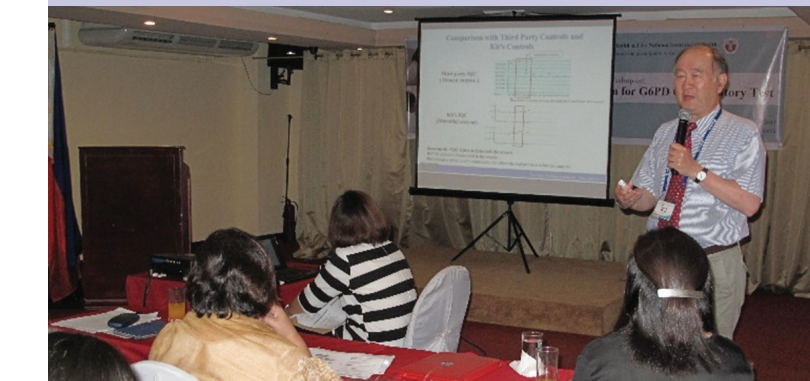
Philippines Hosts First ASEAN Patient Safety Congress

The Newborn Screening Reference Center and the Institute of Human Genetics participated in the First ASEAN Patient Safety Congress held at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza, Pasay City, on June 25-26, 2015.

Organized by the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Medicine with the assistance of UP Medical Alumni Foundation, UP College of Nursing–WHO Collaborating Center for Leadership in Nursing Development, and UP College of Pharmacy, the congress facilitated a collaborative discourse on the promotion of patient safety; identified appropriate multi-professional and multi-specialty approaches to effectively decrease safety

incidents; provided an avenue for exchange of common issues and best practices in the area of patient safety; discussed and shared experiences in healthcare quality and patient safety; and developed consensus statements on principles and strategies toward attaining safer patient care in the ASEAN region.

Healthcare and health service-related professionals who are involved or who teach patient care and patient safety interventions attended the event.



Dr. Kwang-Jen Hsiao leads the discussion on emerging technologies to confirm G6PD deficiencies detected in newborns and its relevance in the Philippine setting.

and precision through External Quality Assurance Program of NSRC; new technologies to confirm G6PD deficiency; and Westgard rules and how use them to ensure quality results for G6PD confirmatory testing.

Background

The National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System as stated in Republic Act 9288, otherwise known as the Newborn Screening Act of 2004, is composed of six components: motivation, screening, follow-up, diagnosis, management, and evaluation. All patients initially identified as to having a disorder undergoes confirmatory tests for diagnosis.

G6PD deficiency was included in the newborn screening program in 2000. In 14 years, 334,560 newborns were identified as initially deficient by newborn screening. Of these, 116,629 were diagnosed as to having G6PD deficiency through confirmatory testing.

Prior to 2009, only one G6PD Confirmatory Laboratory was serving the entire country. With more babies screened, and more babies identified with G6PD deficiency, efforts were undertaken to make confirmatory testing accessible throughout the country. In January 2015, 21 confirmatory testing centers were already set up.

DOH, NSRC Conduct G6PD QA Workshop

To ensure quality testing among accredited glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) confirmatory centers, the Department of Health (DOH) and Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC) conducted the 3rd Workshop on Enhancing the QA Program for G6PD Confirmatory Test Workshop on May 27-28, 2015.

Chief medical technologists and analyst of the confirmatory centers attended the workshop.

The following topics were highlighted during the two-day workshop: importance of G6PD External Quality Assurance; importance of confirming screened positive patients; vital roles of the G6PD Confirmatory Centers in the Newborn Screening Program; importance of the use of Third Party Internal Quality Control as an improvement tool to measure inter-laboratory accuracy and precision; significance of monitoring accuracy

Sharing Ideas . . . from page 3

nutritionist and dietician at the Philippine General Hospital, provided insight on the dietary management of metabolic disorders.

The lectures and exchanges of ideas helped each participant gather insights on how to further improve their implementation of the Newborn Screening Program on proper blood collection, increased coverage, continued advocacy, and inclusion of Expanded Newborn Screening. *HPascua*



VOLUNTEER YOUTH LEADERS FOR HEALTH

Central Visayas . . . from page 1

Serious Business

Day 2 of the camp featured a series of lectures. The first was a talk on how to use the powers of social media responsibly. VYLH Vice-President for Visayas John Paul Oira presented "I am Social: Social Media and the Filipino Youth Volunteer" on behalf of VYLH National Secretary Zapphire Zamudio. Meanwhile, National Youth Commissioner Jan Paul Peñol exemplified the youth's power in his talk "The Role of the Youth in Nation Building and Health Promotion."

Dr. Barbra Charina Cavan, the VYLH Cluster Adviser for Visayas, oriented the new volunteers on the other VYLH major advocacy through her talk "Folic Acid Facts," with a supplementary discussion on the National Birth Defects Surveillance. The third major advocacy was presented to the volunteers through a series of videos from the Philippine Society of Orphan Disorders; Aster Lynn Sur, VYLH National Secretariat, showed "Caring for Children with Rare and Orphan Disorders." VYLH National President Christian Emmanuel Enriquez presented the VYLH Progress Report through the years.

After the lectures, the new volunteers underwent "Action-Plan Construction and Youth Mobilization Seminar," which was followed by the campers' presentation and feedback from the advisers. Batch *Hiraya* provincial representatives were also elected.

The camp's second night featured a series of team-building activities (*Amazing Race*). The new volunteers were also officially inducted as members of the network through the traditional "Commitment Ritual." A renewal of commitment was also held for old members.

The camp ended with cultural presentations and the "VYLH Camp Awards."

Background

VYLH started in 2009 with a vision to empower the Filipino youth in becoming agents of change for a healthier Philippines. More than five years later, the network has empowered hundreds of young individuals.

Since its inception, VYLH-Philippines has conducted promotional activities on newborn screening, folic acid supplementation, rare diseases, and birth defects through various approaches such as fora, symposia, seminars, radio and TV spots, exhibits, door-to-door campaigns, concerts for a cause, film showing, and distribution of promotional materials in strategic areas. *JPOira, FEdra*



BATCH HIRAYA

Announcements

13th Newborn Screening Convention "Enhancing Newborn Care, Nurturing Minds, Brightening the Future and Saving More Lives"

MESSAGE

On behalf of the officers and members of the Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc., I would like to invite you, our fellow health practitioners and allied health professionals, to attend the 13th Annual Newborn Screening Convention, with the theme "Enhancing Newborn Care, Nurturing Minds, Brightening the Future and Saving More Lives," to be held at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, on October 6-7, 2015.

The one-and-a-half-day convention will provide a venue for discussion by experts and implementers of newborn screening on the Updates on Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS) in the Philippines, ENBS in Southeast Asia, Genetic Counseling, Newborn Screening Data on Pre-Term, Updates and Challenges in Hemoglobinopathies, Confirmatory Testing and Management of Metabolic Disorders, Updates on Continuity Clinics, and many other topics on newborn screening.

We look forward to seeing you in Manila for this one and a half day of fruitful, enjoyable, and intellectual convention on its 19th year of saving babies from mental retardation and death through newborn screening.

Mabuhay!

EPHRAIM NEAL ORTEZA, MD
President
Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc.

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TENTATIVE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

DAY 1. October 6, 2015
8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m. Opening Ceremonies
Welcome Remarks
Special Message from DOH
Special Message from NIH
Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Keynote Address
Opening of Exhibit
2:00 p.m. Plenary 1. Expanded Newborn Screening in Southeast Asia
2:30 p.m. Plenary 2. Updates on the Philippine Expanded Newborn Screening Program
3:00 p.m. Plenary 3. ENBS: Setting the Stage for the Next Decade
Open Forum
3:30 p.m. Plenary 4. Hemoglobinopathies in the Filipino Population
3:45 p.m. Plenary 5. Confirmatory Testing and Management of Metabolic Disorders
4:15 p.m. Plenary 6. ENBS Advocacy/Implementation in the Regional Level
4:45 p.m. Plenary 7. PhilHealth Update
Plenary 8. Integrating NBS in the Secondary Education Curriculum
Plenary 9. Role of Youth in Health Issues
Open Forum
10:00 a.m. Simultaneous Symposium A. Glutaric Acidemia-Confirmed Case Beyond the Newborn Period
Genetic Counseling Made Easy

DAY 2. October 7, 2015
8:00 a.m. Plenary 6. ENBS Advocacy/Implementation in the Regional Level
8:30 a.m. Plenary 7. PhilHealth Update
9:00 a.m. Plenary 8. Integrating NBS in the Secondary Education Curriculum
9:30 a.m. Plenary 9. Role of Youth in Health Issues
10:00 a.m. Open Forum
10:30 a.m. Simultaneous Symposium A. Glutaric Acidemia-Confirmed Case Beyond the Newborn Period
Genetic Counseling Made Easy

As of May 2015, there are 332 health facilities offering expanded newborn screening: 257 in Luzon, 30 in Visayas, and 45 in Mindanao. For the complete list of facilities, please visit www.newbornscreening.ph.

10:30 a.m. Simultaneous Symposium B. Implementation of ENBS by NSFs: ABC of ENBS
The Role of Social Workers in the NBS Program
Open Forum
11:30 a.m. Lunch
12:00 p.m. Plenary 10. Screening for Critical Congenital Heart Disease
1:00 p.m. Plenary 11. Newborn Screening Data for Preterm
2:00 p.m. Plenary 12. "Are your newborn screening samples acceptable?" Minimizing Unfit and Unsatisfactory Samples
2:30 p.m. Open Forum
2:45 p.m. Plenary 13. Launch of the Online Learning Module and Certification
3:15 p.m. Plenary 14. Updates on Continuity Clinics
3:45 p.m. Plenary 15. Parent's View on the Newborn Screening Program
Open Forum
4:15 p.m. Closing Ceremonies
4:30 p.m. Summary
Next Steps
Closing Remarks

NSC-Mindanao . . . from page 4

fathers, and elderly family members through a festive event that offers health services and awareness activities.

This year's HI-5 Caravan was for three municipalities in Davao del Sur included in the Accelerated and Sustainable Anti-Poverty Program (ASAPP).

NSC-Mindanao gave free newborn screening to four babies. Majority of the babies that were present during the caravan were not delivered in birthing facilities, but almost all were screened. Data showed that the Newborn Screening Program is well-implemented in the birthing facilities of the province especially in the three ASAPP municipalities. *RBalio*



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DOH-RO 12 Conducts NBS Training in Koronadal

The Department of Health-Regional Office (DOH-RO) 12 conducted a Newborn Screening (NBS) Orientation and Heel Prick Training at Villa Princesita, Koronadal City, on May 14-15, 2015. The training was attended by 25 participants from newborn screening facilities in North Cotabato.

Agnes Panton, DOH-RO 12 NBS Program Manager, and Christabelle T. Chua discussed the Newborn Screening Act of 2004, or Republic Act 9288, and tackled the importance of NBS and the roles of the different stakeholders, particularly the NSFs.

Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, Newborn Screening Center (NSC)-Mindanao Unit Head, presented the NBS performance of the CARAGA region, the disorders in six-panel test, and the Expanded NBS, while Sheila Mae Guilaran, NSC-Mindanao Program Manager, discussed purchasing, payment, and other administrative protocols.

The actual heel prick collection training was held the next day at the South Cotabato Provincial Hospital and was supervised by Ms. Panton and Ms. Chua. *MAPanton, CChua*

Your Feedback Is Important to Us!

Thank you for reading our newsletters!

We would love to hear your feedback. Please let us know how we can improve our bimonthly newsletters by answering our feedback form at www.newbornscreening.ph.

If you would like to write an article, please contact us at info@newbornscreening.ph. We will do our best to keep you informed about current and relevant newborn screening issues.



Central Visayas Regional Youth Camp Welcomes Batch Hiraya

A member of the VYLH Batch Hiraya shows her support to one of the advocacies of the network.

Reigniting the spirit of youth volunteerism in Central Visayas, the Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH)-Philippines, in collaboration with the Department of Health-Regional Office (DOH-RO) 7 and Newborn Screening Center (NSC)-Visayas, organized this year's regional youth camp to increase awareness on health issues among the youth and to mobilize youth leaders in the region toward health advocacy work.

This year's newest breed of volunteers took the name *Hiraya*, from the Filipino word for "vision," giving emphasis on the theme "Revolutionizing Health Promotion through Youth Participation." This was the first time for VYLH to adopt a single Filipino word to name their batch. This was also the first time VYLH opened its doors to public applicants, adding to those who were selected by schools or organizations. A total of 20 applicants were accepted into the camp.

The first batch of Hiraya volunteers were inducted at the VYLH Central Visayas Regional Camp in Boljoon, Cebu, on May 22-24, 2015. Students and young professionals from Siquijor, Cebu, Negros Oriental, and Bohol, as well as new volunteers from Tacloban City, comprise the 53-member strong batch.

Participants were greeted by camp facilitators at the Cebu Club Fort Med Resort. The camp officially opened on May 22 with GTKY activities, camp introduction, messages from regional partners, and a video message from VYLH National Adviser Dr. Carmencita D. Padilla.

Dr. Emmelie Pfeider-Silao, NBS Medical Coordinator, through VYLH President Ruff Vincent Valdevieso, presented the Department of Health Programs and DOH-RO 7 Updates on Newborn Screening—one of the three major advocacies of VYLH. It was followed by an orientation on the National Newborn Screening Program by Yugie Caroline Demegillo, NSC-Visayas Program Manager. Anna Leah Millares, NSC-Visayas ENBS Nurse, presented the Expanded Newborn Screening Program.

A Social Night and Talent Expo was held in the evening to facilitate campers get acquainted with one another. Spicing up the night was an on-the-spot Mr. and Ms. Social Night, with Zecariah Chito Jumawan and Khem Alvarez as camp heartthrobs.

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Number of Babies Screened as of June 2015

COUNTER: 6,432,982