



**For Mindanao**  
 Southern Philippines Medical Center  
 J. P. Laurel Avenue, Davao City  
 Telephone: (082) 226-4595, 224-0337  
 Telefax: (082) 227-4152  
 Email: nbsprogram@nscmindanao.ph

### DOH-RO 12 Prepares NSF's for ENBS in Central Mindanao



Top: DOH-RO 12 Newborn Screening Team pose for photo with health professionals who attended the orientation on February 9-10 at T'boli Hotel, General Santos City. Bottom: A group photo concluded the ENBS orientation and sample collection practicum on March 28-29 at the Gensan Medical Center.

To capacitate both private and government health workers with knowledge and skills needed for the implementation of the NBS program, the Department of Health-Regional Office (DOH-RO) 12 conducted the Orientation on Expanded Newborn Screening and Heel Prick Training at T'boli Hotel, General Santos City, on February 9-10, 2017.

Thirty participants composed of nurses, midwives, medical technologists, laboratory technicians, and nursing attendants from government and private health facilities in Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato City, and General Santos City attended the two-day training. The practicum on sample collection using the heel-prick technique was conducted

at Dr. Jorge P. Royeca Hospital in General Santos City.

Meanwhile, also in General Santos City, another NBS training was also conducted by DOH-RO 12 at the newly constructed Gensan Medical Center on March 28-29, 2017. Fifty participants attended the event, and practicum was held at Dr. Jorge P. Royeca Hospital and other private lying-ins in General Santos City. The training emphasized the importance of skills enhancement programs and intensifying the NBS advocacy to achieve the target of 100 percent coverage in every facility. *RMua*



### DOH-Caraga Holds ENBS Orientation



City and municipal health officers and health professionals pose for a photo with the organizers of the ENBS orientation in San Agustin, Surigao del Sur.

To help increase the coverage of ENBS in the region, DOH-RO-Caraga, in coordination with Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao (NSCM) and NBS Continuity Clinic, conducted an ENBS orientation at O's Landing Resort in San Agustin, Surigao del Sur, on April 26-28, 2017.

City and municipal health officers, who are mostly under the Doctors to the Barrios program, and some 28 health professionals attended the orientation.

Dr. Conchita Abarquez, NSCM Unit Head, discussed the panel of disorders and strict adherence to program standards. She also promoted awareness and avoidance of unnecessary delay on the detection and management of confirmed cases. Nicolette Liana Salvo, Region 11 NBS Continuity Clinic Nurse, discussed the flow of long-term follow-up and clinic schedules and reiterated the importance of continuous support from stakeholders to achieve favorable outcomes in case management. *RAguilar*

### DOH-RO 9 Conducts Series of NBS Cluster Meetings



The Family Health Cluster of DOH-RO 9, in coordination with NSCM, conducted a series of NBS Cluster Meetings in March 2017 to tackle various issues related to program implementation and advocacy promotion.

Dr. Conchita Abarquez, NSCM Unit Head, and Nerissa Gutierrez, Regional NBS Program Manager, addressed the issues and concerns related to recalling patients and advocating NBS to parents.

The first cluster meeting was held at Grand Astoria Hotel, Zamboanga City, on March 8-10, where 76 health professionals from newborn screening facilities (NSFs) in Zamboanga City, Isabela City, Zamboanga Sibugay Province, and Sulu Sanitarium attended. Sixty-three representatives from NSFs in Zamboanga del Sur attended the second batch held on March 14-16 at Alindahaw Lakeview Resort, Lakewood, Zamboanga del Sur. The last batch was at Mibang Hotel, Dipolog City, on March 21-23, where 58 participants from the NSFs in Zamboanga del Norte participated. *IRThomas*




**For Regions I, II, III & CAR**  
 Angeles University Foundation Medical Center  
 MacArthur Highway, Barangay Salapungan,  
 Angeles City  
 Telephone: (045) 624-6502, 624-6503  
 Email: nscaufmc@gmail.com

### NSCCL Actively Campaigns for Screening Shortly After Birth

This year, the Newborn Screening Center-Central Luzon (NSCCL) started distributing to NSF's under its jurisdiction leaflets that contain vital information on the proper collection of samples and the possible negative effects of delayed sample collection, testing, recall, and management of newborns positive with disorders included in the NBS panel.

The information drive aimed to remind the NSF's and parents that NBS must be done shortly after birth to ensure that potentially affected newborns are screened, diagnosed, and managed on time.



**MULA SA PAGKAPANGANAK ANG PAGKOLEKTA NG DUGO PARA SA NEWBORN SCREENING.**

**MAG-EXPAND NA TAYO!**

EXPANDED Newborn Screening AVAILABLE NOW

DISORDERS 6 TRADITIONAL NEWBORN SCREENING → 28 DISORDERS

There had been a high incidence of MSUD in the Philippines, and its often progressively severe clinical course, which leads to the radical progression of neonatal illness and death, is the reason why it was included in the NBS Panel of Disorders in 2012.

MSUD is an autosomal recessive inborn error of metabolism in which the parents each carry one copy of the mutated gene, but they characteristically do not show signs and symptoms of the condition. The condition gets its name from the distinctive sweet odor of affected infants' urine and is characterized by poor feeding, vomiting, lethargy, and developmental delay. In MSUD, the body of the newborn is unable to process certain protein building blocks properly. If untreated, MSUD can lead to seizures, coma, and death. *NDelaCruz*

**KAYA SIGURADUHING MA-NEWBORN SCREENING 25 ORAS PAGKAPANGANAK NG SANGGOL!**

Ang Newborn Screening ay maaaring gawin kahit si baby ay:

- ✓ Naka-NPO / TPN
- ✓ Preterm / Low birth weight
- ✓ Naka-antibiotics
- ✓ Sick
- ✓ Nag-Blood Transfusion

\*Kung kinakailangang masalinan ng dugo ang sanggol, dapat makolekta ang NBS sample nito bago masalinan. Sundin ang protocol sa blood transfusion para sa susunod na koleksyon.



**For Region IVA**  
 Daniel O. Mercado Medical Center  
 3rd Flr. DMMC-HIS Bldg., 143 Narra St.,  
 Mountview Subd., Tanauan City  
 Telephone: (043) 702-7715, 702-7719  
 Email: nsc.southernluzon@gmail.com

### NSCSL Brings G6PD Confirmatory Test to Quezon Province



Dr. Alma Panganiban-Andal (standing, right) delivers her lecture on G6PD Deficiency.

Quezon is the largest province in CALABARZON, covering half of the region's entire land area. In the implementation of the NBS program in the province, the distance to confirmatory testing centers is a problem faced by families of babies diagnosed with Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency.

CALABARZON has only three G6PD confirmatory centers: Batangas Medical Center in Batangas City, Lipa Medix Medical Center in Lipa City, and University of Perpetual Help Dr. Jose G. Tamayo Medical Center in Biñan, Laguna. Patients have to travel to these places or to Metro Manila for a G6PD confirmatory test. But due to the difficulty in commuting and financial constraints, families of babies with G6PD Deficiency simply decide to defer the confirmatory test.

This obstacle was what the Newborn Screening Center-Southern Luzon (NSCSL) wanted to address when it held the G6PD Forum and free G6PD confirmatory tests in Queen Margaret Hotel, Lucena City, on March 25, 2017. In partnership with the DOH-RO 4A, the event was attended by patients from as far as Catanduan and General Nakar, Quezon Province, making a total 110 parent-participants where 29 benefited from the free G6PD confirmatory tests.

During the forum, Dr. Alma Panganiban-Andal, NSCSL Unit Head, talked about the G6PD Deficiency disorder and its manifestations and contraindications. Parents contributed to the discussion by asking about the details of the treatment, possible cure for the disorder, concerns about the diet of their child especially milk, and medicine intake.

Parents also expressed their gratitude to the organizers, saying that bringing the forum to the province made sure that their babies were well taken care of and that they were well informed as well. Similarly, NSCSL assured the parents that it would continuously provide NBS support to residents of the province. *FDimaculangan*



Babies with G6PD Deficiency undergo blood extraction for G6PD Confirmatory Test.



## 2017 ANNUAL NBS CONVENTION

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

*When and where will the 2017 Annual Newborn Screening Convention be held?*

The 2017 Annual Newborn Screening Convention will be held on October 3 and 4, 2017, at the Reception Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Pasay City.

*When is the registration period?*

Pre-registration is only until August 15, 2017. Pre-registration fees are as follows:

Php 3,000 - Doctors  
Php 2,500 - Non-doctors/trainees/residents

On-site Registration  
Php 4,000 - Doctors  
Php 3,000 - Non-doctors/trainees/residents

Registration opens at 8:00 a.m. on October 3; however, doors to the convention venue will open at 11:00 a.m.

To take advantage of the reduced fees for MD trainees, kindly submit a letter from your department chair certifying that you are currently undergoing training (residency or fellowship). Please bring your identification card from the institution indicating your current position.

No walk-in registration will be entertained on the second day of the convention, October 4.

*What is included in my convention registration fee?*

Your convention registration fee includes admission to the convention hall and exhibit area, convention kit, and meals for the two-day event (October 3: afternoon snacks; October 4: morning snacks, lunch, afternoon snacks).

*What are the methods of payment?*

Pre-registration payment may be made through

bank transfer or walk-in at the NSRC Office on or before August 15, 2017.

Only company checks will be accepted.

Deposit pre-registration fees to:  
Account Name: Newborn Screening Society of the Philippines, Inc.  
Account No.:  
0051-019939-201 Security Bank  
4981-0110-96 Bank of Philippine Islands  
002410114497 Banco de Oro

Only cash payment will be accepted on October 3.

*How will the organizers know if I have already registered?*

You may send the accomplished Pre-Registration Form (available at [www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph)) with the clear scanned copy of the validated deposit slip indicating the name/s of attendees to the Secretariat through any of the following:  
Email: [newbornscreeningconvention@gmail.com](mailto:newbornscreeningconvention@gmail.com)  
Fax: (02) 247-6008  
Mail: c/o Newborn Screening Reference Center National Institutes of Health University of the Philippines Manila New Gold Bond Building, 1579 F. T. Benitez Street, Malate, Manila

Please send a text message to 0921-305-5094 after the email, fax, or mail was sent.

*Where can I claim the official receipt?*

You may claim the official receipt at the secretariat desk during the convention. Kindly bring the printed deposit or transaction slip as proof of payment along with a valid ID.

*Do I earn professional credits for attending the convention?*

Continuing professional development (CPD) units have been requested for the convention participants from the

professional societies (for example, PPS and PAFP) and from the Professional Regulation Commission (for midwives, nurses, and medical technologists).

*Where can I find exhibitor and sponsorship information?*

Send in your intent to exhibit/sponsor to [newbornscreeningconvention@gmail.com](mailto:newbornscreeningconvention@gmail.com). You can reach nearly 1,700 health practitioners by exhibiting at the 15th Annual Newborn Screening Convention. The exhibit dates are October 3 and 4, 2017.

*How do I cancel my registration?*

Cancellation requests must be done in writing signed by the registered participant and sent by fax to (02) 247-6008 or email at [newbornscreeningconvention@gmail.com](mailto:newbornscreeningconvention@gmail.com).

Requests received at least two (2) weeks before the event are eligible for a refund of 75 percent of the registration fee net of processing fee. While those received less than two (2) weeks until the first day of the event (October 3) are eligible for a refund of 50 percent of the registration fee net of processing fee. Requests received on the second day of event (October 4) onward will no longer be processed.

*Can I send a representative if I cannot make it to the event?*

Replacements will be accepted for pre-registered participants who cannot make it on the date of the convention. An authorization letter and a photocopy of the ID of the non-attending participant must be presented.

EXPANDED  
Newborn Screening  
AVAILABLE  
NOW

SAVE THE DATE

15<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL  
NEWBORN SCREENING  
CONVENTION

3 to 4  
OCTOBER 2017

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER

NSSPI Secretariat  
[newbornscreeningconvention@gmail.com](mailto:newbornscreeningconvention@gmail.com)  
(+63) 921 305 5094

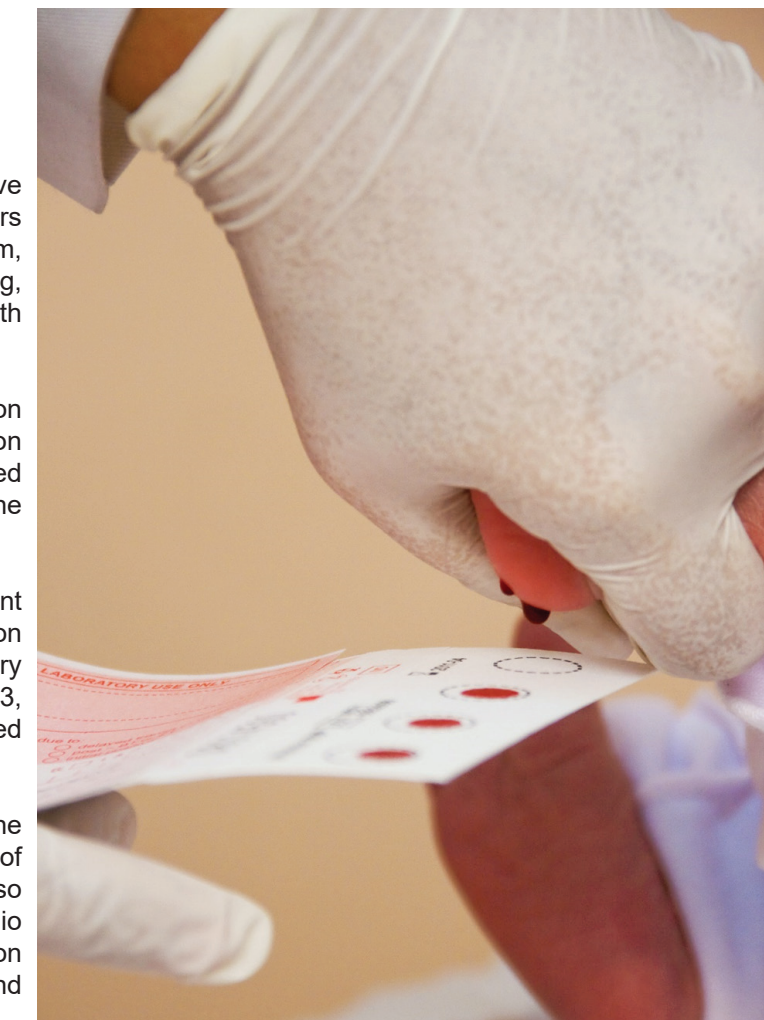
## DOH-CAR Holds Training on Sample Collection

For five consecutive years, the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) has been consistently one of the top performers in the National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System, a nationwide integrated structure that consists of screening, diagnosis, and management of babies confirmed positive, with 96.13 percent in NBS coverage in 2015.

However, still one of the challenges in program implementation is the delay in diagnosis and management of cases. Based on reports of the different NSFIs in the region, majority of screened positive cases in far-flung areas are not confirmed due to the absence of accredited confirmatory center in the area.

In response to the need for more effective and efficient implementation, the DOH-CAR Office conducted a training on the collection of samples to be sent to accredited confirmatory testing centers at Eurotel Hotel, Baguio City, on March 22-23, 2017. Some 30 medical technologies and 2 nurses assigned from different NSFIs attended the training.

During the training, Dr. Florencio C. Dizon discussed the proper procedure of collection, packing, and shipment of samples of the different congenital disorders. Participants also had hands-on exposure at the Under Five Clinic of Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center through the supervision of Dr. Dizon, Dr. Virginia L. Narciso, Elaine Kia P. Rosario, and Florenz Nastor. *VNarciso*



## 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](http://www.newbornscreening.ph). If you would like to write an article, please contact us at [info@newbornscreening.ph](mailto:info@newbornscreening.ph). We will do our best to keep you informed about current and relevant newborn screening issues.



Newborn Screening Reference Center  
National Institutes of Health  
University of the Philippines Manila  
Unit 304 New Bond Gold Building  
1579 F. T. Benitez, Malate, Manila

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Comments and questions may be sent to:  
Newborn Screening Reference Center  
National Institutes of Health  
University of the Philippines Manila  
Unit 304 New Bond Gold Building  
1579 F. T. Benitez, Malate, Manila

Or email us at: [info@newbornscreening.ph](mailto:info@newbornscreening.ph)  
Website: [www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph)  
Follow us on Twitter: [@newbornscreenph](https://twitter.com/newbornscreenph)

Executive Editor: Ma. Elouisa L. Reyes  
Managing Editor: Vina G. Mendoza  
Associate Editor: Emerson Kim J. Lineses  
Layout Artist: Emerson Kim J. Lineses  
Contributors: Ronald Aguilar, Nikki Dela Cruz, Frex Dimaculangan, Dr. Virginia Narciso, Iris Roma Thomas, Rohannah Mua, Richard Alipasa, Marjorie Dandan, Jesusa Jalad, Juvelyn Lumabas, Mary Grace Opon, Ma. Agnes Algarme

Circulation: Maria Melanie Liberty B. Alcausin, MD

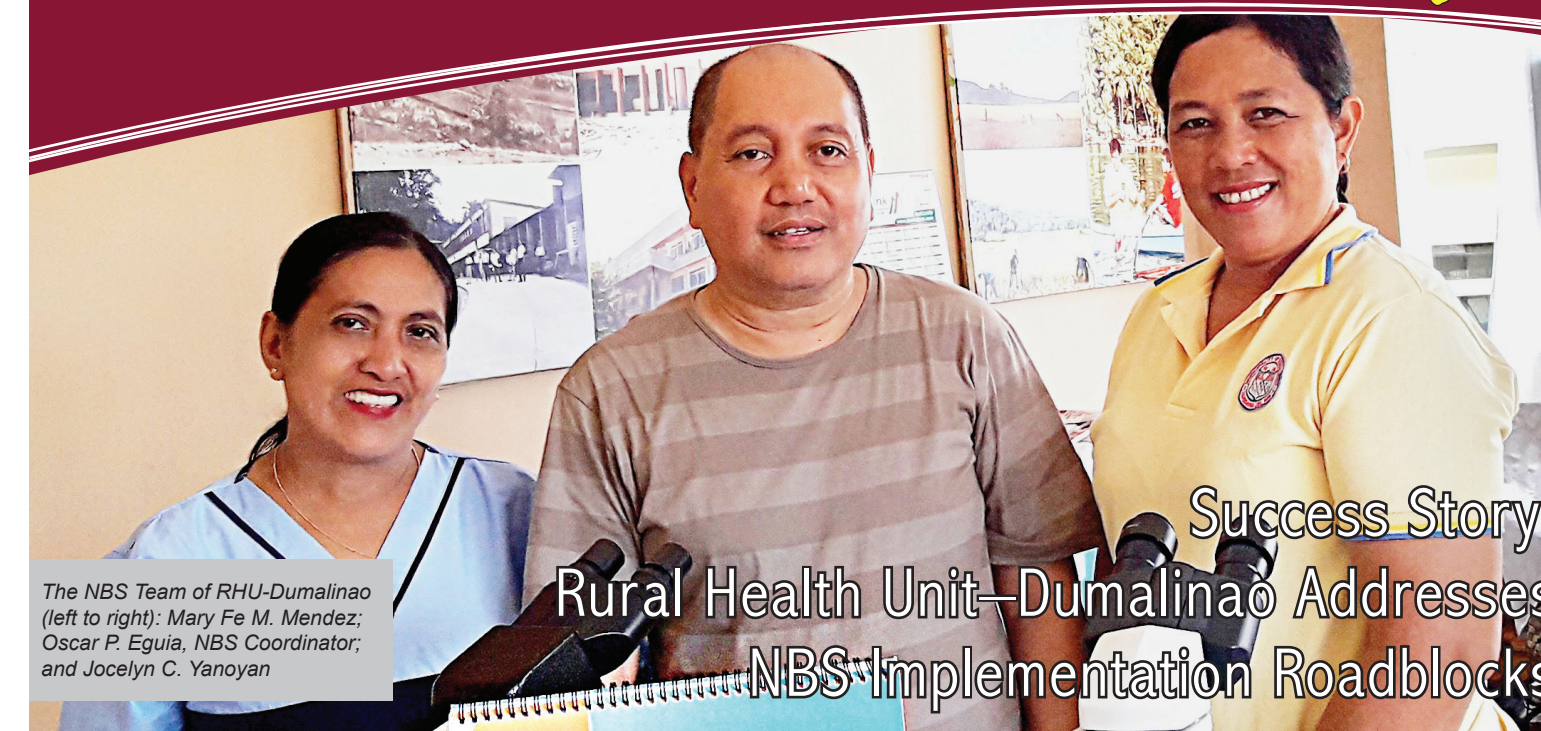
Adviser: Maria Melanie Liberty B. Alcausin, MD

VOLUME 21  
ISSUE  
02  
MARCH-APRIL  
2017



# newborn screening

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



The NBS Team of RHU-Dumalinao (left to right): Mary Fe M. Mendez; Oscar P. Eguia, NBS Coordinator; and Jocelyn C. Yanoyan

## Success Story: Rural Health Unit—Dumalinao Addresses NBS Implementation Roadblocks

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 DOH-RO 12 Prepares NSFIs for ENBS in Central Mindanao
- 3 DOH-Caraga Holds ENBS Orientation • DOH-RO 9 Conducts Series of NBS Cluster Meetings
- 4 NSCCL Actively Campaigns for Screening Shortly After Birth
- 5 NSCSL Brings G6PD Confirmatory Test to Quezon Province
- 6 15th Annual Newborn Screening Convention's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
- 8 DOH-CAR Holds Training on Sample Collection

Dumalinao, a fourth class municipality in Zamboanga del Sur, consists of 30 barangays where agriculture and fishing are the primary economic activities. Like many other health facilities, the Rural Health Unit (RHU) of Dumalinao at first had a hard time implementing public health programs, including newborn screening (NBS).

RHU-Dumalinao launched NBS in July 2013, and coverage was a dismal 33 babies screened in that year. As the NBS team tried to increase coverage, they met a few challenges including difficulty in reaching far-flung areas and turning back the cold reception toward facility-based delivery, which in turn affected NBS coverage.

Responding to these roadblocks, Oscar P. Eguia, the facility's NBS Coordinator, worked with his team to establish the stability and reliability of the birthing facility through BEMONC certification and PhilHealth accreditation. Consequently, facility-based delivery increased after the availability of the PhilHealth Maternal Care Package and Newborn Care Package. Dumalinao Mayor Junaflor S. Cerilles, with Municipal

Health Officer Dr. Patrick Kean L. Toledo, also passed an ordinance on mandatory newborn screening. The ordinance ensured that all facility-based deliveries are screened and secured an annual allocation for the procurement of NBS kits based on the town's number of livebirths.

Despite efforts for facility-based delivery and improvement in newborn care through NBS, home deliveries persisted in Dumalinao. Yet, the NBS team continued to find ways to steer the community away from this practice. Eguia then made it a point to remind expectant mothers the benefits of NBS during their laboratory test schedules. Midwives, too, were encouraged to escort mothers who delivered at home to the facility for sample collection. And a portion of the operational budget was allotted to provide free screening to non-PhilHealth members. These contributed to the gradual success of implementation, as coverage yielded 100 percent for both inborn and homebirth cases from 2014 to 2016. Today, RHU-Dumalinao continues to aspire for lower homebirths and hopes to bring Expanded NBS to its constituents soon. *RAguilar*

Number of Babies Screened as of April 2017

9,550,832