

## Metro Manila Tricycles Get ENBS Streamers

DOH-National Capital Regional Office (DOH-NCRO) found a way to promote ENBS closer to the public.

All 17 LGUs in Metro Manila received newborn screening tarpaulin streamers to be distributed to tricycle drivers and displayed in front of their vehicles. These tricycles operate in the secondary streets of the cities and are largely part of the neighborhoods' mode of transportation.

The program was closely coordinated with the Health Education Promotion Officers of each city as part of their social mobilization function. *CMAIncastre*



A tricycle prominently dons the newborn screening tarpaulin streamer on the front, making it easy for people and passengers to see and read the message.

## 2018 NCR Annual PIR Goes to Subic



Participants of the G6PD Deficiency Forum stand by the wall where they signified their pledge of commitment to the Newborn Screening Program.

Gearing toward the full implementation of the Expanded Newborn Screening Program, DOH-NCRO organized the Annual Newborn Screening Program Implementation Review (PIR) at the Mansion Garden Hotel in Subic, Zambales, on June 13-15, 2018.

Attended by NBS coordinators from the 17 local government units (LGUs), DOH-retained hospitals, LGU facilities, and

other stakeholders, the event aimed to deliberate on the status of and the strategies for the Newborn Screening Program in the region.

Several specialists were invited to discuss various aspects of the program. Dr. Anna Lea G. Elizaga explained short-term follow-up recall; Joanna Abigail Decano-Terrado discussed unsatisfactory samples, age of collection, and transit time; and Dr. Mary Ann Abacan talked about confirmatory testing and the management of metabolic disorders.

Dr. Maria Melanie Liberty Alcausin lectured on long-term follow-up recall in continuity clinics; Dr. Rosario Ricalde discussed newborn hearing screening; and Dr. Sylvia Estrada addressed Congenital Hypothyroidism (CH) and Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH). Dr. Mary Antonette Remonte expounded on PhilHealth updates, and Elouisa Reyes led a discourse on NBS best practices.

The participants also underwent workshops where they identified issues in their respective LGUs and facilities and planned how to properly and effectively address common concerns. Teambuilding activities were also part of the activity to encourage the participants to work together toward a more successful Newborn Screening Program in NCR. *CMAIncastre*

## DOH-RO 9 Conducts ENBS Training

The success of newborn screening relies not only on high coverage but also on low number of unsatisfactory samples. Thus, DOH-RO 9 conducted an ENBS training at Grand Astoria Hotel, Zamboanga City, on June 7-8, 2018, to both capacitate implementers in providing ENBS to their patients and train them in collecting specimens correctly and efficiently.

Held in coordination with Zamboanga City Medical Center (ZCMC) and Newborn Screening Center-Mindanao (NSC-M) headed by Dr. Conchita Abarquez, the activity catered to 31 participants composed of nurses, midwives, and medical technologists.

The participants underwent workshops on how to properly perform the technique and avoid errors and common pitfalls in blood sample collection. Held at the ZCMC, the return demonstration produced 31 samples to which the participants applied the techniques they had learned. *IRTomas*



April Joy Germes, Regional NBS Coordinator, supervises the collection of samples during demo.

## Caraga Holds Regionwide ENBS Orientation



DOH Regional Nurse Coordinator Nanette Fat (second row, seated third from left), NSC-M Unit Head Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez (seated fourth from left), and participants pose for a photo after the ENBS Orientation.

A total of 60 program coordinators composed of midwives, medical technologists, nurses, and doctors attended the Regionwide Orientation on ENBS conducted by DOH-Caraga at VCDU Prince Hotel, Butuan City, on May 23-24, 2018.

The activity aimed to speed up the transmittal of ENBS samples from the

region by promoting awareness on the benefits of newborn screening for the 28 common heritable disorders. This prompted the regional office to increase ENBS awareness among health care providers.

NSC-M Unit Head Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez gave a thorough lecture on the groups of disorders included in the ENBS

panel. Sample validity, screening age, and transit time guidelines were also given emphasis to attain early detection and management. On the second day, NBS Continuity Clinic Nurse Nicollete Liana S. Panal discussed the difference between short-term and long-term follow-ups and the nature and functions of a continuity clinic. *RAguilar*



Participants of the Annual NBS Forum, including the midwives who received certificates of recognition, pose for a photo after the program.

## CHO-Malaybalay Holds Annual NBS Forum

To educate parents of confirmed babies and health workers in assisting families in the management of their children, the City Health Office (CHO) of Malaybalay held the Annual NBS Forum at the People's Hall of Malaybalay City Hall, Bukidnon, on May 17, 2018.

Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, NSC-M Unit Head, graced the event and discussed patient management and the importance of medical advice and updates on the different disorders under the newborn screening panel. She

stressed that keeping updated with the newborn screening program, especially the disorders included in the panel, is beneficial to both parents and health workers.

Twenty-four mothers and 55 personnel from the City Health Office attended the activity. Vice Mayor Roland Deticio also attended the ceremonies and expressed the city's commitment in ensuring affordable NBS test to residents. Meanwhile, Gil Bernard Samante, a nurse coordinator, announced that

DOH-RO 9 provides free confirmatory testing to indigent babies. Udall Armand Cabading, DOH-RO 10 NBS Continuity Clinic Nurse, discussed with parents the functions of the continuity clinic and its schedule.

To cap off the activity, Dr. Susan Marie Punongbayan, Rural Health Physician, and Rica Raguro, NBS Nurse Coordinator of CHO-Malaybalay, awarded certificates of recognition to some 40 midwives who were active advocates of the newborn screening program. *RAguilar*

## DOH-RO 10 Holds ENBS Orientation

Some 30 health professionals from Misamis Oriental attended an orientation on ENBS conducted by DOH-RO 10 at Pearlmont Inn, Cagayan de Oro City, on June 22, 2018.

ENBS samples comprise only 2.6 percent from the total newborn screening samples sent by the province from January to June 2018. This prompted the regional office to increase ENBS coverage despite the cost.

Participants were oriented on the importance and benefits of ENBS. Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, NSC-M Unit Head, discussed the panel of disorders, guidelines of implementation, and status of the program. Different types of unsatisfactory samples were also discussed to keep invalid samples within

the 1 percent acceptable unsatisfactory rate. Common newborn screening facility errors and ways to prevent them were tackled to achieve shorter turnaround time from purchasing, processing of samples, and releasing of results to managing positive cases. Udall Armand

Cabading, DOH-RO 10 NBS Continuity Clinic Nurse, discussed the role of continuity clinics in the management of confirmed cases. *RAguilar*

Organizers and participants of the ENBS orientation in Cagayan de Oro City



## DOH-CAR Holds First VYLH Summit in the Region

This year marks the ninth year of the Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH)—Philippines, a national network of youth leaders from various organizations in universities and communities in the Philippines. VYLH has been organizing camps since 2009 and has given valuable experience and knowledge in health advocacy to youth leaders.

In celebration of this milestone, the DOH-CAR, under the Child Adolescent Health Development Cluster headed by Dr. Virginia L. Narciso, conducted the first Regional VYLH Summit at Maharajah Hotel, Angeles City, Pampanga, on June 7-8, 2018.

Attended by 86 participants, including youth leaders, faculty members, and health personnel, the two-day activity aimed to raise awareness of the youth on the different measures to prevent birth defects, mental retardation, and death among infants and children.

The activities started on the night of June

6 with the introduction of participants and facilitators and with a talent expo. Next day, Dr. Narciso discussed the health situation in the Philippines, programs of the DOH, and updates on various health issues including ENBS at the national and local levels. Dr. Maria Melanie Liberty B. Alcausin talked about ENBS, and Dr. Bernadette Halili-Mendoza, Unit Head of NSC-Central Luzon (NSC-CL), discussed the Rare Disease Act.

For its part, VYLH facilitated lectures on birth defects, preconception, health and teenage pregnancy, volunteerism and leadership for health, and folic acid facts.

The summit also featured teambuilding activities and the VYLH Rites. The participants enjoyed "The Amazing Race," which helped them learn more about themselves and realize the importance of teamwork in

performing their roles and functions as VYLH members.

On the last night of the program, summit-goers participated in the Cultural Dance Competition, where Ifugao Province bagged the first prize, the University of the Cordilleras got second, and the Abra State Institute of Science and Technology, third. *EKRosario*



Summit participants from Ifugao Province, wearing their traditional costume, win the Cultural Dance Competition.

## Cordillera Health Workers Attend First G6PD Forum

Headed by Dr. Virginia L. Narciso of the NBS Team, DOH-CAR Office organized the Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase (G6PD) Deficiency Forum for Frontline Health Workers at Prince Plaza Hotel, Baguio City, on May 9-10, 2018.



Participants of the G6PD Deficiency Forum stand by the wall where they signified their pledge of commitment to the Newborn Screening Program.

Attended by doctors, nurses, midwives, medical technologists, and representatives from the provincial DOH office of Abra, the two-day activity aimed to develop a better understanding on the basic facts of G6PD Deficiency and various precautionary measures to prevent occurrence of hemolytic crisis among patients in the community.

Dr. Florencio C. Dizon, NBS Quality Assurance Consultant, discussed the basics of G6PD Deficiency and its pathophysiology, confirmatory testing, interpretation of results, and management of the disorder. Dominga L. Dawe, nutritionist at BGHMC, explained the nutrition requirements for G6PD deficient babies and step-by-step counseling. Dr. Narciso also shared an algorithm on the management of G6PD deficient babies, which helped the participants understand the proper procedures on how to manage positively screened G6PD babies from the recall up to the management of the case.

The activity concluded with the participants taking a "pledge of commitment" to advocate newborn screening and the right to health of newborns. *EKRosario*

# VOLUNTEER YOUTH LEADERS FOR HEALTH



## Once Upon a Time in the Visayas Cluster Camp

by Karl Scott Bañares

Have you ever felt that a far-away place seemed like home? Or that people whom you just met share the things that you believe in? Well, I have. It was in the sunny month of May in the City of Smiles at Palmas Del Mar Resort, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, where a group of confident, enthusiastic, talented, and amazing people from the islands of Panay-Guimaras and Negros gathered together for the Visayas Cluster Camp.

As my school's representative to the camp organized by the Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH) Philippines on May 18-20, it was a privilege and an honor to be part of this organization advocating health and spreading awareness through the spirit of volunteerism. It was also a surprise that VYLH opens its arms to all people, not just those in the medical and health disciplines, just as long as

you are willing to take the responsibility and have the passion to promote health to everyone.

The three-day camp started with meeting the people behind VYLH and the facilitators whom we were going to spend our time with for the rest of the event. The campers then immediately got to the business at hand, which was listening to lectures explaining the advocacies and health issues advanced by VYLH. Later that evening was the Socials Night, where each and everyone in the camp confidently showcased his or her talents and got the chance to meet other delegates.

The next day, after some fun morning exercises, we took our breakfast and went on to get acquainted with the advocacies



of VYLH, including the newest of them all: the Pre-Conception Health Orphan Disorder. A team-building activity quickly followed, and it tested the groups' skills, values, and teamwork. Through the activity, we understood each other's strengths, weaknesses, and interests. With this understanding, it would help us further in charting our personal progress and our roles in the organization and our communities.

Finally, the last day of the camp was when we committed ourselves as Youth Leaders and Advocates. It was a day of mixed emotions. First, we had Regional Cultural Presentations where we showcased the culture and history of our home islands. Then, the fun began during the "Kalog Awards" and, as what VYLH called "the tradition," a stunning birthday surprise. Many of us were not ready to say our goodbyes as we had just met newfound friends; sadly, it was time to go back home.

I would like to thank the whole VYLH-Philippines family for unfolding the wonderful world of meaningful volunteerism to us. This has made a big impact on our lives. A debt of gratitude too to the Department of Health-Regional Offices and to the Newborn Screening Center-Visayas for spearheading this once in a lifetime event.

The camp was indeed full of new experiences, meaning, surprises, and laughter. An adventure has begun for us, and the possibilities of effecting profound change are endless. It is also our duty that there is no ending to this story and that it will continue until the next generations.

Until next time, everyone!

Photos from top to bottom: The different teams formed during the summit receive their individual certificates. A family photo of the organizers and participants of the summit.



## EDITORIAL STAFF

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, Claire Alincastré, Karl Scott Bañares, Elaine Kia Rosario, Iris Roma Tomas  
 Circulation: Marjorie Dandan, Jesusa Jalad, Juvelyn Reyes, Ma. Agnes Algarme  
 Adviser: Riza Concordia N. Suarez

Comments and questions may be sent to:

Newborn Screening Reference Center  
 National Institutes of Health  
 University of the Philippines Manila  
 Unit 304 New Gold Bond 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)

## NEWBORN SCREENING WEEK

### OCTOBER 1-7, 2018

Visit [www.newbornscreening.ph](http://www.newbornscreening.ph)  
 or ask your health attendant about  
**Expanded Newborn Screening!**

## A CHANCE TO SAVE A LIFE

### Get your newborn screened!

## 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 bi-monthly 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 Gold Bond Building  
 1579 F. T. Benitez, Malate, Manila

VOLUME 22  
 ISSUE  
**03**  
 MAY-JUNE 2018



# newborn screening

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



Participants of the First NBS Orientation for Senior Citizens gather together for a family picture.

## What's Inside

- Metro Manila Tricycles Get ENBS Streamers • 2018 NCR Annual PIR Goes to Subic
- DOH-RO 9 Conducts ENBS Training • CARAGA Holds Regionwide ENBS Orientation
- CHO-Malaybalay Holds Annual NBS Forum • DOH-RO 10 Holds ENBS Orientation
- DOH-CAR Holds First VYLH Summit in the Region • Cordillera Health Workers Attend First G6PD Forum
- Once Upon a Time in the Visayas Cluster Camp

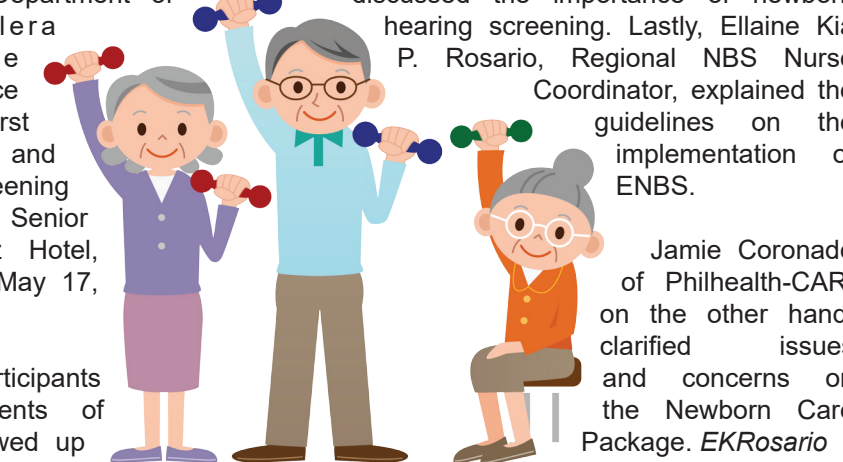
## DOH-CAR Holds 1st NBS Orientation for Seniors

In the Philippines, parents and grandparents play an important role and hold sway over decisions of the family when seeking health services for common illnesses. And that includes maternal health as well.

Hence, to raise the level of awareness of the elderly on the significance of Newborn Screening and Newborn Hearing Screening, the Department of Health-Cordillera Administrative Office (DOH-CAR) Office conducted the first Expanded NBS and Hearing Screening Orientation for Senior Citizens at Ritz Hotel, Baguio City, on May 17, 2018.

Dr. Virginia L. Narciso, CAHDC Head, briefly discussed the overview of the program and the situation in the region, highlights of Republic Act 9288, and the features of the Long-Term Follow-Up Clinic. Dr. Renelyn P. Ignacio of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center explained the panel disorders included in both the NBS and ENBS, while Dr. Mary Jane T. Lubos discussed the importance of newborn hearing screening. Lastly, Ellaine Kia P. Rosario, Regional NBS Nurse Coordinator, explained the guidelines on the implementation of ENBS.

Some 82 participants who are residents of Baguio City showed up for the event.



Jamie Coronado of Philhealth-CAR, on the other hand, clarified issues and concerns on the Newborn Care Package. *EKRosario*

Number of Babies Screened as of June 2018 : **11,380,221**