

Buntis Congress Upholds Life Stage Programs

More than 45 pregnant women from the geographically isolated and disadvantaged barangays of Bacacay, Albay, participated in the Buntis Congress at the municipality's Rural Health Unit (RHU) on December 17, 2018.

The deployed Human Resource for Health and RHU personnel initiated the said event to improve the health seeking behavior of pregnant women and to understand the importance of clinic visits.

Milwida S. Racho, MNCHN Coordinator from Provincial Health Office (PHO) Albay, discussed the effects of missed scheduled visits for both prenatal and postnatal periods especially for vaccination, micronutrient supplementation, and calcium supplementation for the prevention of hypertensive complications of pregnancy. Dr. Rita Mae C. Ang-Bon, Family Health Cluster Head of the Department of Health—Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD) Bicol, highlighted the affordability, appropriateness, safety, and sustainability of exclusive breastfeeding. She also mentioned the key difference between bottle-feeding and breastfeeding.

Joseph Steven B. Fenol, NBS Coordinator from DOH-CHD Bicol, talked about the benefits of newborn screening and newborn hearing screening. He also mentioned the importance of timely screening and management of disorders as a key to the positive outcome of each screened positive client.

The representative from the Population Commission provided information on the available limiting and permanent methods of family planning. Ma. Gemmah Ceneta, representative from PhilHealth LHIO Albay, introduced the benefit packages for Maternal and Newborn Care, which may be availed for free if they have sufficient number of contributions prior to confinement. Lastly, Dr. Agnes Serrano emphasized the importance of oral health care, especially when the first tooth of the infant starts to appear.

Dr. Athena Bernadette de Padua, who is under the Doctor to the Barrio Program, closed the event by congratulating the parents and acknowledging the people behind the activity. The participants received gif items such as breastfeeding poncho, calcium and iron supplements, and hygiene kit. *JSFenol*

Top: Milwida Racho discusses the effects of missed scheduled visits for both prenatal and postnatal periods. Center: RHU personnel collects sample from one of the mothers for random blood sugar. Bottom: Joseph Steven Fenol engages one of the participants during the discussion on parents' insights on newborn screening.



Participants and organizers—Clarose Mascardo (DOH-RO 11), Rhoebelle Ann Balio (DOH-RO 11), Dr. Genelynne Beley (NBSCC), and Dr. Conchita Abarquez (NSC-M)—at the Reunion of Saved Babies Region 11

DOH-CHD 11 Hosts Safari-Themed Reunion of Saved Babies

The Newborn Screening Continuity Clinic (NBSCC)—SPMC together with the DOH-CHD 11 threw a safari-themed Reunion of Saved Babies for children who were saved under newborn screening in Region 11 at the Grand Menseng Hotel, Davao City, on November 27, 2018, to share testimonies of parents that NBS can save lives.

Nearly 200 participants came to the reunion, including the parents and guardians of the children. Kids donned their animal costumes and showed off their dancing skills.

Margaret Sibug, Continuity Nurse of Region 11 and Caraga, served as master of ceremony. Meanwhile, Dr. Genelynne J. Beley, Follow-Up Head of NBSCC, provided consultations to parents who missed their previous checkups. Also present were Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, Newborn Screening Center—Mindanao (NSC-M) Unit Head, along with her team, and NBS Program Manager Clarose Mascardo and NBS Coordinator Rhoebelle Ann Balio.

Kids and parents who were very participative and competitive enjoyed some parlor games, and winners took home different prizes and giveaways sponsored by DOH and Dr. Beley. The participants were thankful for the program and said they would look forward to next year's reunion. *MSibug*

DOH-CHD Caraga Gathers Parents for Joint Forum, Reunion

Being a parent of a child with special needs can be a demanding and challenging experience, as shared by some parents during a forum held in Butuan City.

To bring encouragement and solidarity among parents who go through the same challenges, the DOH-CHD Caraga conducted a joint G6PD and CH/CAH Parents Forum and Reunion of Saved Babies at VCDU Grand Convention, Butuan City, on November 13, 2018.

Some 40 mothers, 20 fathers, 10 health workers, and 40 children attended the event. Dr. Genelynne J. Beley, Follow-Up Head of NBSCC, gave a lecture on the disorders. Meanwhile, Margaret Sibug, Continuity Clinic Nurse, shared the importance of compliance to clinical management and also facilitated the open forum and sharing of experiences among parents.

In the afternoon, kids were treated to games led by John Merch Melencion, Marcelino Bernados, and Chrizzha Mae Asis, who are from the Volunteer Youth Leaders for Health (VYLH). A free medical checkup was also held, and free medicine from CHD Caraga were distributed to all patients with Congenital Hypothyroidism. *NMontilla*

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DOH-CHD 11 Conducts Program Implementation Review

DOH-RO 11 conducted an annual NBS Program Implementation Review to assess and evaluate the extent of implementation of the NBS Program in the Davao Region and to address issues and concerns that the facilities may have. This year's review was conducted at Waterfront Hotel, Davao City, on November 22-23, 2018.

NBS Coordinators from all government birthing facilities and selected private birthing facilities attended the activity. Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, NSC-M Unit Head; Dr. Genelynne J. Beley, Follow-Up Head of NBSCC; and Charmelinne O. Panila of PhilHealth Region 9 were the resource speakers.

DOH-CHD 10 Gathers NSF's in Medina for Review

Some 80 participants from the different provinces in Northern Mindanao attended the annual NSF Assembly conducted by DOH-CHD 10 at Resort de Alberto in Medina, Misamis Oriental, on November 26-27, 2018.

The activity was a venue to discuss issues and concerns that would help craft policies for better program implementation and to update NBS Coordinators on the status of the program in the region. Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, NSC-M Unit Head, presented the status on newborn screening, while Gil Bernard Samante, DOH-CHD 10 Nurse Coordinator, presented the NSF's individual coverage.

The assembly also acknowledged NSF's that performed well for the year. Participants were also given time to plan how to achieve their goals and targets. As a culminating activity, participants went on a facility exposure at Barangay Family Health Center Bal-ason and observed its good practices in implementing the newborn screening program. *GBSamante*



The participants, guests, and organizers of the DOH-RO 10 NSF Assembly 2018 in Medina, Misamis Oriental

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Participants and organizers of the Program Implementation Review at WaterfrontHotel, Davao City

Selected top-performing facilities that were sponsored to the 2018 NBS Convention—DDNH Kapalong, RHU Lupon, RHU Bansalan, WFMC Manansala, and Digos Maternity and Lying-in Clinic—were also given the opportunity to present the best practices in their respective facilities. *RBalio*



Mindanao DOH NBS teams, NSC-M staff and selected NSF's Awardees with Dr. Joshua Brillantes (seated fourth from left), Asst. Regional Director of CHDZP

DOH-CHD Zamboanga Peninsula Holds Zonal Meeting

To assess the year's implementation of the NBS Program by Regional Offices in Mindanao, DOH-CHD Zamboanga Peninsula hosted the 2018 Annual NBS Zonal Meeting for Mindanao Cluster at Dakak Park and Beach Resort, Dapitan City, on December 5-7, 2018.

The meeting was opened by Dr. Mary Ann Cataluña, City Health Officer, who relayed the support in the program of Dapitan City Mayor Rosalina Jalosjos. Dr. Joshua Brillantes, Assistant Regional Director of DOH-CHD Zamboanga Peninsula, delivered an inspirational message and invited everyone to continue working together to save more babies. Dr. Conchita G. Abarquez, NSC-M Unit Head, presented the regional performance of the Mindanao Cluster: 308,309 NBS samples and 20,370 ENBS samples from 1,746 NSF's. Each region also presented its accomplishments and best practices. Plans for 2019 were formulated and presented during the activity too.

Participants also conducted facility visits. At Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital, participants learned about the facility's coordination with the police and firefighters, while at Zamboanga Del Norte Medical Center, they discovered how home visits help track patients as well. *ITomas*

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General Mamerto Natividad Organizes Women-Centered Activities

Better late than never.

Two months after the NBS Awareness Week, the Municipal Health Office of General Mamerto Natividad, Nueva Ecija, held activities in celebration of the program on December 18, 2018. The activities that include public lecture and ENBS kits distribution were held jointly with PHO Nueva Ecija and the Provincial Department of Health Office Nueva Ecija (PDOHNE).

Originally scheduled on October 30, 2018, the celebration was postponed due to inclement weather caused by Typhoon Rosita. It was then moved a couple of months later to be held jointly with a planned HIV/AIDS awareness activity that also sought to reach out to expecting mothers.

The community threw its support toward the activity. Barangay health workers accompanied 66 pregnant women to the venue. Dr. Kenneth Paul Ong, who serves under the Doctors to the Barrios Program, delivered a public health lecture on the benefits of newborn screening. Wendy Cabahel, public health associate, discussed the dangers and prevention of HIV/AIDS transmission. Representatives from the DOH—Human Resources for Health (HRH) were also present during the event.

Lovelita Rodriguez and Evangeline Castro, both from the Municipal Health Office, led HIV counseling sessions, while Andrea Tiongson, serving under the Medical Technologist Deployment Program, administered blood tests. Twenty ENBS kits along with 25 sets of Newborn Care Packages were given away to the attendees through a raffle, while adult attendees got free blood typing, syphilis screening, and HIV testing. All attendees also took home maternal care package courtesy of DOH-CHD Central Luzon.



This was the first set of newborn screening awareness activities held in the Municipality of General Mamerto Natividad. These activities brought the community together and provided pregnant women with an opportunity to learn about newborn screening and HIV/AIDS as well as to undergo three different blood tests. *KPOng*

Top: One of the participants undergo a counseling session with the staff from the Municipal Health Office. Andrea Tiongson collects a blood sample from one of the mothers present. Left: The participants listen to the lecture on HIV/AIDS.

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PHO Camarines Norte Holds Fun Bike and Walk to Promote ENBS

Top: Participants of the Fun Bike and Walk start at the provincial capitol grounds. Bottom: Bikers pedal around town in a show of support to the Expanded Newborn Screening Program, wearing the "I Support Newborn Screening" t-shirts.



In celebration of NBS Month in October, PHO Camarines Norte in coordination with DOH-CHD Bicol conducted its first Newborn Screening Fun Bike and Walk in Daet, Camarines Norte, on October 21, 2018.

Rainy weather did not stop some 270 participants from conquering the 22-kilometer trail that starts from the Camarines Norte Provincial Capitol Grounds to Bagasbas Beach via the municipalities of Basud and Talisay. The participants, who come from different public and private health institutions, government offices, and schools in Camarines Norte, helped promote the benefits of the ENBS Program.

The activity culminated with the awarding of prizes at Bagasbas Beach and a round of zumba. All proceeds of the Fun Bike and Walk registration fees will go to the long-term follow-up funds of a confirmed positive patient with Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD) in Paracale, Camarines Norte. MSUD is just one of the 29 disorders that can be detected through the ENBS, which is included in PhilHealth Newborn Care Package.

PHO Camarines Norte plans to regularly conduct activities such as this to increase public awareness on ENBS. *TJLorilla*

World Birth Defects Day

PHILIPPINES | 03 MARCH

"Sa Sama-samang Pagkilos at Pagkalinga, Sa Birth defects, Tayo ay may magagawa"

#WorldBDday | worldbddayph.weebly.com | [@WorldBDdayPHL](https://www.facebook.com/WorldBDdayPHL)

FAQs PhilHealth Newborn Care Package

What is Newborn Care Package?

Newborn Care Package (NCP) is a PhilHealth benefit package for essential health services of the newborn during the first few days of life. It covers essential newborn care and newborn screening and hearing screening tests.

The Essential Newborn Care involves the following health practices to newborn care, which have been proven to improve the health outcomes of the baby:

- a. Immediate drying of the baby
- b. Early skin to skin contact
- c. Timely cord clamping
- d. Non-separation of mother/baby for early breast feeding initiation
- e. Eye prophylaxis and Vitamin K administration
- f. Weighing of the baby
- g. First dose of hepatitis B Vaccine
- h. First dose of BCG Vaccine

Newborn Screening Test is a blood test done on the newborn within 24 to 72 hours after birth. It enables early detection and management of several congenital disorders, which may lead to mental retardation and/or death if untreated.

Newborn Hearing Screening Test is a test done on the newborn to detect congenital hearing loss.

What are the eligibility conditions for newborns to avail of the NCP?

- Newborns are eligible for NCP if all of the following are met:
1. Either of the parents is eligible to avail of the benefits; newborns having qualified dependents are also eligible;
 2. Children were born in accredited facilities that perform deliveries, such as hospitals and birthing homes; and
 3. Services were availed of upon delivery.

What are the requirements for the Health Care Institutions (HCIs) to reimburse with the NCP?

- HCIs may claim for NCP if the following are met:
1. HCIs are accredited facilities that can perform deliveries.
 2. The newborn is eligible to claim for NCP.

3. The newborn is attended by an accredited health care professional.
4. Essential newborn care and newborn screening were given to the newborn prior to discharge.

What are the benefits being enhanced in this circular?

The Newborn Care Package was enhanced to cover the Expanded Newborn Screening Test instead of just the 6-panel NBS. The ENBS costs more than the 6-panel test. Hence, the NCP was increased to cover the additional cost of ENBS.

	Old NCP	Enhanced NCP
Package Code	99432	99460
Rate	PHP 1,750	PHP 2,950
Components		
Professional fee	PHP 500	PHP 500
Essential Newborn Care	PHP 500	PHP 500
Newborn Screening Test	PHP 550 (6-panel NBS)	PHP 1,750 (Expanded NBS)
Newborn Hearing Screening Test	PHP 200	PHP 200

What is the difference between the 6-panel test and the Expanded Newborn Screening Test?

The 6-panel Newborn Screening Test only tests for the 6 inborn errors of metabolism. The Expanded Newborn Screening Test will screen for more than 28 disorders including problems in metabolism and hemoglobinopathies. The complete list of disorders being screened may be viewed on the Newborn Screening Reference Center website (www.newbornscreening.ph).

What are the standards for the NCP?

- The standards of care for each component of the NCP are provided in the following issuances:
1. Essential Newborn Care – DOH Administrative Order 2009-025

2. Newborn Screening Test – Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act 9288 (Newborn Screening Act of 2004) and DOH Administrative Order 2014-0045
3. Newborn Hearing Screening Test – Revised Manual of Procedures of Republic Act 9709 (Universal Newborn Hearing Screening and Intervention Act of 2009)

There are cases when the baby was born in pre-term or small, and a repeat newborn screening must be done. Will PhilHealth pay for this?

When the newborn is sick, appropriate case rate may be reimbursed as first case rate and NCP is claimed as second case rate. In cases when second newborn screening is warranted such as pre-term or low birth weight babies, the repeat screening shall be charged to the first case rate.

How about those facilities that have remaining filter cards for 6-panel? Will they still be able to use it?

These facilities may still perform the 6-panel NBS and claim for the NCP until April 30, 2019. The circular provides a transition period to give time for the facilities to use or return the filter cards for the 6-panel NBS. If 6-panel test was done, the NCP claim shall use the old package code 99432, and if expanded NBS was already done, then the claim shall use the new package code 99460. However, starting May 1, 2019, NCP with 6-panel test shall no longer be paid.

What are the documents needed in the claim?

The attachments are listed on Annex G of the Circular, which are the following:

1. Claims Signature Form (CSF) with attached Filter Card Sticker
2. Properly accomplished PhilHealth Membership Registration Form (PMRF)
3. Claim Form 2 (if applicable)
4. Statement of Account
5. Result of Newborn Hearing Screening Test (if applicable)
6. Newborn Hearing Screening Registry Card (Blue Form) (if applicable; starting July 1, 2019)

Further inquiries may be directed to the Corporate Action Center at (02) 441-74442 or through actioncenter@philhealth.gov.ph

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The PhilHealth circular provides that the enhanced package shall be dispensed to qualified newborns delivered in all accredited health care institutions that perform deliveries and provide newborn care, which include hospitals, infirmaries/dispensaries, and birthing homes/lying-in clinics.

To ensure entitlement to the said benefit, newborns need to be in the facility for at least 24 hours after birth, except those who warrant immediate referral to a higher level facility.

The state health insurer encouraged all active and expecting PhilHealth members to avail themselves of the said package in order to provide newborns with the needed services that will help reduce morbidity and mortality while reducing health care costs associated with treatment of lifelong debilitating conditions.

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. 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.

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Comments and questions may be sent to:

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NEWBORN CARE PACKAGE (NCP) P2,950

Benepisyong pangangalaga para sa bagong-silang na sanggol:

- Supplies for Essential Newborn Care (ENC) such as Vitamin K, eye ointment, vaccines for hepatitis B and BCG
- Professional Fee
- Expanded Newborn Screening Test (ENBS)
- Newborn Hearing Screening Test (NHST)

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7 FAQs: PhilHealth Newborn Care Package

PhilHealth Introduces Enhanced Newborn Care Package

In support of the National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, Inc., or PhilHealth, recently released PhilHealth Circular No. 2018-0021, expanding its coverage of essential health services for newborns.

In the circular, which will take effect on January 5, 2019, the PhilHealth introduced the enhanced Newborn Care Package,

increasing the amount of coverage from PHP 1,750.00 to PHP 2,950.00. The new cost pays for supplies for essential newborn care, such as Vitamin K, eye ointment, and vaccines for hepatitis B and BCG. Included also are the Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS) Test, Newborn Hearing Screening Test, and fees for attending professionals.

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Number of Babies Screened as of December 2018 : 12,233,971