



June 12, 2008

**DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**  
**No. 2008- 0123**

**TO: ALL DIRECTORS AND REGULATORY OFFICERS OF THE BUREAU OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES AND CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, AND OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT: Newborn Screening Coverage**

Section 9 of Republic Act 9288 known as the Newborn Screening Act of 2004, states that the Department of Health and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation shall require health institutions to provide newborn screening services (NBS) as a condition for licensure or accreditation.

In 2004, provision of NBS has been included as part of the requirements for the licensure of hospitals. After the two (2) year transition period, provision of such service became a mandatory requirement for the licensure of hospitals in 2006.

Despite of the various administrative issuances reiterating compliance to the said requirement, the NBS coverage in the hospitals remain at a dismal rate of seventeen percent (17%) as of the December 2007. Only one thousand twelve (1,012) hospitals are enrolled as newborn screening facilities as of 2007. Out of the enrolled hospitals, eighty three percent (83%) are active in the collection of newborn screening.

To be able to achieve the 85% NBS coverage by 2010, target coverage shall be imposed as follows: 30% - 2008, 50% - 2009 and 85% by 2010. All hospitals must ensure that such targets are attained. Otherwise, administrative fines as stipulated in Administrative order No. 2007-0022 shall be imposed.

  
**FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, M.D., MSc.**  
Secretary of Health