



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 3, 2010

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM
No. 2010- 0199

TO : DIRECTORS OF CENTERS FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIALTY HOSPITALS; CHIEFS OF MEDICAL CENTERS AND NEWBORN SCREENING CENTERS (NSCs), NEWBORN SCREENING REFERENCE CENTER (NSRC), AND OTHER CONCERNED AGENCIES

SUBJECT : Accreditation of Newborn Screening Center - Central Luzon

Section 12 of the Newborn Screening Act of 2004, stipulates that no Newborn Screening Center (NSC) shall be allowed to operate unless it has been duly accredited by the Department of Health based on the standards set forth by the Newborn Screening Advisory Committee.

Furthermore, as stipulated in the Section 23 of the Implementing Rules of the Republic Act 9288, "*the establishment and accreditation of either free-standing or hospital-based NSC shall be phased.*" Initially, four (4) NSCs are considered to serve the whole country. However, additional NSCs may be established if found necessary. The establishment and accreditation of NSCs take into consideration the following: "*strategic and geographical access to the public, data on the number of live births in each of the following areas in relation to the minimum required number of test run (at least 50,000 samples per annum), and the network component including the availability of courier services among others.*"

The fourth NSC in the country to cater to Regions 1, 2, 3, and CAR has been selected by the Department of Health and the National Institutes of Health. It shall undergo accreditation review on **September 29 to 30, 2010**.

The composition of the panel of experts to join the Bureau of Health Facilities (BHFS) and Services accrediting team is as follows:

1. **Dr. Bradford Therrell**
Professor, Department of Pediatrics
University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
and Director, U.S. National Newborn Screening and Genetics Resource Center
2. **Dr. Veronica Wiley**
Head, New South Wales Newborn Screening Programme
Secretary-Treasurer, International Society of Neonatal Screening
3. **Dr. Anna Victoria J. Sombong**
Head, Department of Pathology &
Laboratory Head, Newborn Screening Center-Visayas
West Visayas State University Medical Center

For your information and guidance

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health