



Republic of the Philippines  
**PROVINCE OF ISABELA**  
City of Ilagan

## *Office of the Governor*

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 39**  
Series of 2024

### **AN ORDER STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM (NBS) THROUGH PROVINCE-WIDE INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION**

**WHEREAS**, it is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 7160 also known as the *“Local Government Code of 1991”* accords every local government unit power and authority to promote general welfare within its territorial jurisdiction, including the promotion of health and safety of its constituents;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 11223 or the *“Universal Healthcare Law”* emphasized the integrated and comprehensive approach to ensure that all Filipinos are health literate, provided with healthy living conditions, protected from hazards, guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care goods and services, and protected against financial risk through a framework that fosters a whole-of-system-government-society approach in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of health policies, programs, and plans;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 9288 otherwise known as the *“Newborn Screening Act of 2024”* declares that it is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people, including the rights of children to survival and full and healthy development as normal individuals;

**WHEREAS**, the law endeavors to institutionalize a national newborn screening system that is comprehensive, integrative and sustainable, and will facilitate collaboration among government and non-government agencies at the national and local levels, the private sector, families and communities, professional health organizations, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations;

**WHEREAS**, the said Act shall also ensure that every infant born in the Philippines is offered the opportunity to undergo newborn screening and thus be spared from heritable conditions that can lead to mental retardation and death if undetected and untreated;

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**WHEREAS**, DOH Circular No. 333, S. 2004 ensures inter-agency collaboration through inclusion of NBS in the agenda of existing committees on children's health and welfare. In such venues, the following agencies shall be represented; DOH, NHIP, DILG and other relevant health professional organizations;

**WHEREAS**, DOH Administrative Order no. 2020-0052 directs the implementation of the Expanded Newborn Screening Program which shall be offered in all Newborn Screening Facilities;

**WHEREAS**, the Provincial Government of Isabela affirms the importance of implementing Newborn Screening Program through the issuance of Executive Order No. 21-2019 by Governor Rodolfo T. Albano III directing the Isabela Provincial Health Office to ensure massive immunization program and newborn screening in the Province;

**WHEREAS**, to further strengthen the said Program, there is a need for the establishment of mechanism in the recall and referral of patient for confirmatory and management by concerned agencies which shall address the need for prompt and appropriate management of infants with positive result of screening;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, RODOLFO T. ALBANO III, Governor of the Province of Isabela**, by virtue of the authority vested in me by law, do hereby order the following;

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.** - This Order shall be known as the *"Expanded Implementation of Newborn Screening Program in the Province of Isabela."*

**SECTION 2. OBJECTIVES.** - This Order shall:

- a. Integrate the Newborn Screening Services at the Primary Care Provider Networks;
- b. Strengthen the health care provider network of the Expanded Implementation of Newborn Screening Program in the Province of Isabela; and,
- c. Provide support mechanisms for patients.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS.** Under this Order, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively given to them below:

***Follow-up*** refers to the monitoring of a newborn with a heritable condition for the purpose of ensuring that the newborn patient complies fully with the medicine or dietary prescriptions.

***Newborn*** refers to a child from the time of complete delivery to 30 days old.

***Newborn Screening*** refers to the process of collecting a few drops of blood from the newborn onto an appropriate collection card and performing biochemical testing for determining if the newborn has a heritable condition.

***Newborn Screening Center (NSC)*** refers to a facility equipped with a newborn screening laboratory that complies with the standards established by the NIHP, and provides all required laboratory tests and recall/follow-up programs for newborns with heritable conditions.



***Newborn Screening Continuity Clinic (NBSCC)*** refers to the ambulatory clinic based in a tertiary hospital identified by the DOH to be part of the National Comprehensive Newborn Screening System Treatment Network, equipped to facilitate continuity care of confirmed patients in its area of coverage

***Newborn Screening Reference Center (NSRC)*** refers to the central facility at the NIHP that defines testing and follow-up protocols, maintains an external laboratory proficiency testing program, oversees the national testing database and case registries, assists in training activities in all aspects of the NBS program, oversees content of educational materials, recommends, establishment of NSCs and acts as the Secretariat of the Advisory Committee on Newborn Screening.

***Recall*** refers to a procedure for locating a newborn with a positive screening result from a possible heritable condition for purposes of providing that newborn with appropriate laboratory testing to confirm the diagnosis and, as appropriate, to provide treatment.

***Treatment*** refers to the provision of prompt, appropriate and adequate medicine, medical and surgical management or dietary prescription to a newborn for purposes of treating or mitigating the adverse health consequences of a heritable condition.

#### **SECTION 4. IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES.**

##### **1. Development of Health Workers Capabilities**

- a. The Province shall develop the capabilities of health workers by ensuring that its workers have undergo various levels of training conducted by the Department of Health-Centers for Health Development.
- b. All Primary Care Facilities and Barangay Health Stations shall be provided with materials promoting awareness on Newborn Screening Services.
- c. Capacity building on Newborn Screening shall be provided to all concerned workers of Primary Care Facilities and Barangay Health Workers of Health Stations to ensure that health promotion activities for Newborn Screening are implemented in their workplace and community.

##### **2. Local Legislation**

The enactment of local ordinances that integrate Newborn Screening into the provision of a health delivery system shall be pursued.

##### **3. Provision of Newborn Screening Services**

- a. The Province shall ensure that adequate and sustained Newborn Screening services such as information, education, communication, screening, recall, and follow-up are being provided in all its Health facilities;

- b. The Province, through the Provincial Health Office, shall monitor and evaluate the newborn screening implementation within its jurisdiction who are required to [i] ensure that expanded newborn screening is offered, and [ii] provide information, education, communication, screening, recall and management of identified cases and other related services;
- c. The Local Government Units shall provide support to make newborn screening accessible, particularly among the economically deprived populace including financial assistance to indigent patients availing newborn screening services, and such support shall include coverage for expenses such as travelling expense\,s, confirmatory laboratory fees, and other related costs that cannot be provided by the Newborn Screening Center-Northern Luzon and/or the Newborn Screening Reference Center and the Department of Health-Center for Health Development..

**4. Coordination with agencies and stakeholders.**

Recall and referral of patients for confirmatory and management by concerned agencies shall be strengthened through the Province’s Health and Primary Care Provider Networks.

- a. A strong coordination between Newborn Screening Facilities, both public and private, and Local Government Units, through their Primary Care Facilities, in the recall and referral of patients for confirmatory and management shall be established;
- b. Collaboration with the Barangay Councils and Civil Society Organizations shall be encouraged in assisting the health workers in conducting recall and referral. Other health providers' organizations, such as, Philippine Medical Association, Philippine Pediatric Society, can also be tapped when warranted;
- c. Positive patients managed by the Newborn Screening Continuity Clinic (NBSCC) who completed their treatment and/or therapy shall be endorsed to the Primary Care Facilities (PCFs) for continuity of care by virtue of the Back-Referral Mechanism of the Service Delivery Network.

**SECTION 5. SEPARABILITY.** If any provision of this Executive Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 6. EFFECTIVITY.** This Executive Order is effective immediately.

Done in the Province of Isabela, this 27th day of August, 2024

  
RODOLFO T. ALBANO III  
Governor 