



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

November 27, 2018

DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

No. 2018 - 0411

FOR : **DIRECTOR OF NEWBORN SCREENING REFERENCE CENTER,
HEADS OF NEWBORN SCREENING CENTERS AND OTHERS
CONCERNED**


SUBJECT: **Support Fund for Newborn Screening (NBS) Basic Six (6)-Test Patients**

The Department of Health recognizes the significant role of the Newborn Screening Centers (NSCs) not just in screening disorders included in the newborn screening (NBS) panel, but also in the provision of recall/follow-up programs for newborns screened positive, thereby greatly contribute to prompt and appropriate management.

It is crucially important that newborns confirmed positive with any of the disorders under NBS should be managed promptly because if left untreated, it can lead to debilitating consequences such as mental retardation and/or death. Upon computing the fee for the Expanded Newborn Screening (ENBS), a portion intended for the management of patients with inborn errors of metabolism (IEMs) has already been factored in. However, there are still number of patients screened under the basic six (6)-test in which treatment fund was not included in the costing. The IEMs require a lifetime management and thus ensuring the strict compliance to the prescribed treatment would be financially difficult for the families of each patient.

In this regard, all Newborn Screening Centers are hereby requested to provide funding support for the abovementioned purpose. The assistance from NSCs will be referred as "Patient Support Funds" and shall be allocated annually for confirmatory testing, medications, medical food, and other necessary expenses of their respective patients screened under NBS basic six (6)-test.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:


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