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ESTABLISHMENT AND ACCREDITATION OF NEWBORN SCREENING CENTERS

DOH DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM NO. 59, S. 2004, June 07, 2004

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This is with regards Republic Act 9288 otherwise known as the Newborn Screening Act of 2004. It is hereby emphasized that Section 12 of the said law mandates the DOH to ensure Newborn Screening Centers are strategically located in order for newborn screening to be readily accessible to the public. Furthermore, it states that "No Newborn Screening Center shall be allowed to operate unless if has been duly accredited by the DOH in partnership with the National Institute of Health (NIH)". The establishment of Newborn Screening Centers shall be phased accordingly.

In this regard, it is stressed that no hospitals or freestanding laboratories are allowed to operate a Newborn Screening Laboratory without the expressed approval of the DOH. A health facility may offer newborn screening services as collecting and referral centers only but are strictly prohibited to operate newborn screening laboratories without formal accreditation from DOH.

Rules and regulations for accreditation shall be strictly adhered to by the DOH.

For your immediate compliance.

Adopted: 7 June 2004

(SGD.) MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD. MSc
Secretary of Health

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