



**PENNSYLVANIA SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME PREVENTION AND  
AWARENESS PROGRAM**  
**“SAVING BABIES’ LIVES ONE FAMILY AT A TIME.”**

**97% of Pennsylvania Hospitals Participated in  
Shaken Baby Syndrome Program in 2005**

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**Special Points of Interest:**

- SBS National Center Information
- Remember to Send Delivery or Discharge Numbers with SBS data
- Tip for Presenting SBS Information

**The PA SBS  
Newsletter has a new  
look for 2006!**

It will be easy to identify the new newsletters since the format is slightly different from the four issues you received in 2005. We will continue to use a different color for each issue in 2006.

Pennsylvania has 124 birthing and children’s hospitals statewide. We are excited to report that by the end of 2005, 97% of these hospitals were actively participating in the *Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention and Awareness Program* by presenting SBS education in a format recommended by Dr. Dias and returning commitment statement data monthly for tracking in the *Pennsylvania SBS Database*. (Refer to the **Hospital Corner** section of this newsletter, page 4, for participating hospital names.) Of the 4 birthing hospitals and 1 children’s hospital that were not participating in 2005 all but one has been in-serviced in early 2006. The remaining hospital has verbalized plans to join the program this spring. Our goal is 100% statewide participation and consistent presentation of the SBS education including the “*Portrait of Promise*” video (refer to article below).

The *Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency* and The *Pennsylvania Department of Health*, who fund the *Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention and Awareness Program*, are encouraged by this statewide hospital participation. It is the hope of all child abuse prevention partners in Pennsylvania that as shaken baby syndrome education is presented across the state in a uniform, consistent, comprehensive fashion, we will show a decrease in infant abusive head injuries.

*We wish to thank all the Nurse Managers across the state who have verbalized a commitment to child abuse prevention by encouraging their nursing staff to consistently educate every parent of every baby on the dangers of shaking an infant!*

**SBS Video is a Key Element in Parent Education**

When educating parents about shaken baby syndrome, the *Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention and Awareness Program* recommends that the education be presented following these **4 key steps**:

1. Conduct one-on-one discussion with the nurse (this should only take 5 minutes per patient); and
2. Encourage parents to view the 8 minute video entitled “*Portrait of Promise*”; and
3. Provide written shaken baby educational materials; and
4. Request parents to sign a commitment statement stating that they have received and understand info provided.

Every nurse should provide this information to the parents of every baby born in Pennsylvania and this education should be documented in the chart.

Pediatricians and parents alike have told us that when faced with a crying baby at home, parents are remembering the education provided by the nurse especially the video. Physicians have noted that parents are learning to “*Put the baby down and call for help if they can’t get the baby to stop crying*”. So please encourage every parent to view the video. We will provide as many copies as your hospital needs to ensure that every parent has the opportunity to view it prior to hospital discharge. We have found that parent compliance is the highest in the PA hospitals where the video is NOT on a hospital educational channel but rather when it is viewed in the patient’s room or family lounge at a time that is convenient for the parents.



**Magee Women’s Hospital of UPMC in Pittsburgh is the largest birthing hospital in Pennsylvania and a faithful participant in the PA SBS Prevention & Awareness Program.**

## Cases of Infant Abusive Head Trauma Reported in 2005



*Cuddle and love your baby!*

Childline has released the statistics of infant abusive head trauma in Pennsylvania for 2005. There were fifty-seven documented cases of infants with head injuries that were confirmed to be the result of abuse including shaken baby syndrome. This compares to sixty cases reported in 2004.

In 2005, of the fifty-seven infants injured: Central PA reported twenty cases, Eastern Pa accounted for twenty-seven cases and Western PA had ten cases.

Of those fifty-seven children, forty-two were boys and fifteen were girls, all ranging in age from 12 days old to 2 1/2 years old.

Forty-six of the fifty-seven perpetrators were parents (81%), five were babysitters (9%),

and four were the mother's paramour (7%). Two of the perpetrators were unknown (3%).

The abusive injuries included: skull fractures, subdural hematomas, brain swelling, retinal hemorrhages, and permanent brain damage. Associated injuries included: fractures of the clavicle, tibia, femur, radius, ulna, and ribs and bruising of the face, neck, arms, ear, and legs. Four of these children died.

Fifty-four of the infants were born in Pennsylvania hospitals and the parents should have received the SBS education at the time of the baby's birth. The majority of the perpetrators who were parents refused the education at the time of the baby's birth..

### The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome Website Provides Educational Articles and Materials for Staff and Parent Education

The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome has an excellent website <http://www.dontshake.com> to assist you with educating your staff and parents on SBS. There are links appropriate for health care professionals, families, caregivers, investigators, legal professionals and educators. It also offers educational materials that you can purchase, through an online catalogue like the one on the right, if desired, including: posters, brochures, booklets, and mannequin dolls. However, remember all the basic materials for your hospital SBS program including the "Portrait of Promise" video, can be obtained free of charge by contacting our office at (717) 531-7498.



**Please remember to include the number of OB live births or NICU/PICU discharges with your commitment statement data submitted each month. Thank You!**

## Eight New Hospitals Join SBS Program in the Fourth Quarter 2005

We welcome the following new hospitals who have made a commitment to participate in *The Pennsylvania SBS Prevention and Awareness Program* by submitting their commitment statement data during the fourth quarter of 2005:

Central Montgomery Hospital  
 Crozer Chester Medical Center  
 Delaware County Medical Center  
 Frankford Hospital  
 Latrobe Hospital  
 St. Vincent Medical Center  
 Temple University Hospital  
 Williamsport Hospital

If you are one of the 8 PA hospitals listed above then a *Fourth Quarter SBS Database Report* specific to your hospital is enclosed with this newsletter. Please review these statistics carefully and contact the SBS Nurse Coordinators if you find a discrepancy. **Thank you for taking the time to submit this information in 2005!**

## 2005 End of Year Report Enclosed with this Newsletter

We wish to thank the Pennsylvania birthing and children's hospitals who faithfully sent us their commitment statement data during 2005. The commitment statements that you submit along with the delivery numbers, or NICU/PICU discharges, that you report are entered into the *Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Database*. An *End of Year Database Report* is sent to all participating hospitals annually. A report specific to your hospital is included

with this newsletter. Individual hospital and Pennsylvania Cumulative Reports are also sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Please review your report carefully and contact the SBS Nurse Coordinators if you find a discrepancy. If there are months that your hospital did not submit data, and you have it, it's not too late to add it. Just contact the SBS office with the new information. We will make any necessary adjust-

ments in your database file and re-issue a new report if necessary.

The data that you submit is vitally important in assessing the effectiveness of the SBS education that Pennsylvania nurses are providing. Please utilize the *End of Year SBS Report* as a QI tool to provide feedback to your staff on the effectiveness of your program.

## DID YOU KNOW...

that patient acceptance of SBS education is directly related to how the information is presented. As a nurse you are already teaching about diapering, putting the baby on his back in the crib and feeding, it only makes good sense that you also teach the parents about crying. When educating parents begin by discussing crying as normal infant behavior, teach them crying facts, and techniques to quiet a crying infant. THEN discuss shaken baby syndrome. Parents WILL be more open to the discussion once they have the tools necessary to quiet a crying infant. GOOD LUCK!



*Teach parents how to quiet a crying baby!*



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*The Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention and Awareness Program* was developed in 1998 in Upstate New York by Dr. Mark Dias, Pediatric Neurosurgeon. Since the inception of the SBS program, Upstate New York has reduced the incidence of SBS by nearly 50%. In 2002, the identical program was started in Central Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Bill 2002-176: *The Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Act* was passed. In 2004, through the generous funding of *The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency* and in collaboration with *The Pennsylvania Department of Health*, Dr. Dias' program was extended to the Eastern and Western portions of the state. The SBS program provides nursing in-services, supplies, educational videos and guidance to all PA hospitals free of charge. Our goal, with your help, is to ensure that every parent of every child born in Pennsylvania receives education on shaken baby syndrome.

*Please help us reduce the incidence of abusive head trauma in Pennsylvania's babies!*

## *The Hospital Corner*

The following 119 hospitals are active participants in *The Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention and Awareness Program* as of December 2005! Thank you for your dedication to child abuse prevention.

Albert Einstein Med. Center  
Allegheny General Hospital  
Alle-Kiski Medical Center  
Altoona Hospital  
Armstrong Hospital  
Berwick Hospital  
Bloomsburg Hospital  
Blue Mountain Health Hospital  
Bradford Regional Med. Center  
Brandywine Hospital  
Butler Hospital  
Carlisle Regional Med. Center  
Central Montgomery Hospital  
Chambersburg Hospital  
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital  
Chestnut Hill Hospital  
Chester County Hospital  
Children's Hospital: Phila.  
Clarion Hospital  
Clearfield Hospital  
Community Medical Center  
Conemaugh Hospital  
Corry Memorial Hospital  
Crozer Chester Medical Center  
Delaware County Med. Center  
Doylestown Hospital  
Dubois Regional Med. Center  
Easton Hospital  
Elk Regional Health Center  
Ellwood City Hospital  
Ephrata Hospital

Evangelical Hospital  
Forbes Regional Med. Center  
Frankford Hospital  
Geisinger Medical Center  
Grand View Hospital  
GMC: Wyoming Valley  
Gettysburg Hospital  
Good Samaritan: Lebanon  
Hahnemann Univ. Hospital  
Hamot Medical Center  
Hanover General Hospital  
Harrisburg Hospital  
Hazelton General Hospital  
Heart of Lancaster Co. RMC  
Hershey Medical Center  
Holy Redeemer Hospital  
Indiana Hospital  
Jameson North  
J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital  
Jeanes Hospital  
Jennersville Regional Hospital  
Latrobe Hospital  
Lehigh Valley Hospital  
Lewistown Hospital  
Lock Haven Hospital  
Magee Woman's Hospital  
Main Line: Bryn Mawr  
Main Line: Lankenau  
Main Line: Paoli  
Meadville Medical Center  
Medical Center of Beaver

Memorial Hospital: Towanda  
Memorial Hospital: York  
Mercy Hospital: Pittsburgh  
Mercy Hospital: Scranton  
Mercy Jeannette Hospital  
Mercy Suburban Gen Hosp.  
Millcreek Comm. Hospital  
Monongahela Valley Hosp.  
Montgomery Hospital  
Moses Taylor Hospital  
Mt. Nittany Med Center  
Nason Hospital  
Northeastern Hospital  
Ohio Valley Gen Hospital  
Pennsylvania Hospital  
Phoenixville Hospital  
Pocono Medical Center  
Pottstown Hospital  
Pottsville Hospital  
Punxsutawney Hospital  
Reading Hospital  
Sacred Heart Hospital  
Sewickley Valley Hospital  
Sharon Regional Health  
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial  
Somerset Hospital Center  
St. Christopher's Hospital  
St. Clair Hospital  
St. Joseph Hospital  
St. Luke's: Allentown  
St. Luke's: Bethlehem

St. Mary's Medical Center  
St. Vincent Medical Center  
Temple Lower Bucks  
Temple University Hospital  
Thomas Jefferson Hospital  
Titusville Area Hospital  
Tyler Memorial Hospital  
Tyrone Hospital  
Uniontown Hospital  
United Community Hospital  
University of PA Med. Center  
UPMC: Bedford Memorial  
UPMC Horizon: Greenville  
UPMC Horizon: Farrell  
UPMC: Northwest  
Warren General Hospital  
Washington Hospital  
Wayne Memorial Hospital  
Waynesboro Hospital  
Western PA Hospital  
Westmoreland Regional  
Wilkes-Barre General Hosp.  
Williamsport Hospital  
Winber Hospital  
Women & Babies: Lancaster  
York Hospital

