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 information 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.
Cases of Infant Abusive Head Trauma Reported in 2005

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 21/2 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.dontshaken.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 adjustments in your database file and reissue 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!
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
Hazleton 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 Horizons: Greenville
UPMC Horizons: 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

Thank you!