



Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention and Awareness Program

“Saving babies’ lives one family at a time.”

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **PA Hospitals must be consistent in providing education to parents**
- **Shaken baby education documentation recommendations**
- **Sample SBS policy and auditing tool**

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

12 New hospitals participate in second quarter 2005	3
US Navy uses Dr. Dias’ Model for SBS education.	3
The Hospital Corner	4

Consistent Hospital Based Education is Key to Decreasing Shaken Baby Injuries in Pennsylvania

In order to see a decrease in abusive head injuries in Pennsylvania all hospitals must be consistent in providing SBS education.

The Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention and Awareness Program is based on the clinical research of Dr. Mark Dias, Pediatric Neurosurgeon. He published the findings of his successful upstate New York Prevention Program in PEDIATRICS Journal in April 2005. A copy of this research article was sent to every Pennsylvania birthing and children’s hospital as an insert in our June 2005 SBS Newsletter. The success of the New York program, a 50% decrease in shaken baby cases, was based on the consistent implementation of shaken baby education in all upstate New York hospitals.

When Pennsylvania passed PA Act 2002-176 *The Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Act*, the Pennsylvania Department of Health partnered with Dr. Dias to utilize his experience from New York to educate the hospitals throughout Pennsylvania on shaken baby syndrome prevention. The ultimate goal is a decrease of infant abusive head trauma in Pennsylvania. Since December 2002, Dr. Dias and the PA SBS Nurse Coordinators have been instructing the Pennsylvania hospitals how to consistently present shaken baby education in a manner that has been proven to work. Unfortunately, a few Pennsylvania hospitals are not presenting all the key elements of the education program on a

consistent basis.

As of August, Pennsylvania has recorded 25 cases of abusive head trauma (AHT) in infants for 2005. Of those twenty-five babies, one was born at home, two were born out of state and twenty-two were born in Pennsylvania hospitals.

When questioned, many of the victim’s parents stated that either they were not offered shaken baby education or were not encouraged to view the video. Several just received a pamphlet that was placed in the diaper bag. A few were even offered the commitment statements to sign but were not provided the education. One family stated that they refused to receive the information, sign the commitment statement or watch the video since they viewed it 15 months earlier with an older child’s birth. Three months later, Dad shook the new baby to death. He has been convicted and is now in prison. The family is currently doing TV interviews stating that if the nurse had been more encouraging by offering a refresher of the information perhaps their daughter might be alive today. This tragic example emphasizes the important role of the nurse in providing EVERY PARENT of EVERY BABY born in Pennsylvania with SBS education whether or not they have received it previously. The nurse in this case did a thorough job of documenting the parents refusal of the education which assisted in the conviction of the perpetrator.

(Continued on page 2.)

(Continued from page 1)

Consistent Hospital Based Education is Key to Decreasing Shaken Baby Injuries in Pennsylvania

Nurse Managers can assist their nurses by ensuring that everyone is providing the same educational material in the same way. The Nurse Manager should review, with the staff, the policies and procedures for the hospital's shaken baby education program. The **4 key elements** of the program must be included in the education that every nurse provides to the parents of every baby born in Pennsylvania and this education must be documented in the chart:

1. Conduct one-on-one discussion with the nurse; 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

The majority of Pennsylvania hospitals have done an exemplary job providing this education and documenting their consistent compliance according to Dr. Dias' model. ***We thank you for a job well done!*** For the hospitals who wish to review and revise their current practices in order to be more in line with the other PA hospitals, we have included a sample self audit and sample policy for your reference.

It is only through the consistent application of these proven educational practices and the dedication of the Pennsylvania hospital nurses that we as a state can see a decrease in shaken baby injuries!

A Message from the PA Shaken Baby Syndrome Nurse Coordinator

Will Your SBS Documentation Stand Up to a Hospital Audit and Legal Scrutiny?

Hospital audits and legal review of medical records are a fact of life. How well a hospital survives this scrutiny depends on the thoroughness of the documentation and the hospital policies for record keeping.

Over the last 24 years as a Registered Nurse, OB Nurse Manager and professional certified in both utilization review (CPUR) and legal nurse consulting (CLNC), I have reviewed thousands of medical records at the state and local level. The old adage "If it's not documented it's not done" definitely holds true. Whether conducting a hospital audit or preparing a medical legal case, the medical records are invaluable in proving the level of care that was provided.

Nurses in all PA hospitals are very busy. While we all strive to be comprehensive in the care that we provide, we are faced with time constraints and look for areas that we can streamline. Documentation requirements from the hospital, state, etc. can be burdensome but are vitally necessary. The documentation of educational encounters with patients is no exception.

Since the SBS Law, PA ACT 2002-176, requires hospitals to be the primary providers of shaken baby education the responsibility falls on the shoulders of the nurse caring for the individual patient to document that this requirement has been met. If the chart is pulled because the baby subsequently sustains injuries from being shaken then the documentation will either support or refute that the nurse has fulfilled her legal responsibility. Make no mistake the medical records are invaluable in these cases. Whether they are used by a defense attorney or prosecuting attorney will depend on the thoroughness of the documentation or lack of it.

We encourage all hospitals to review their policies and procedures for providing shaken baby education to their patients. Clearly define the documentation requirements that are expected of your department's nurses. Ensure that the 4 key elements noted above are being documented whether the patient agrees to participate or refuses. To assist you with this process we have included an insert in this newsletter of a sample policy and auditing tool for your reference. And as always, please feel free to contact us, the PA SBS Nurse Coordinators, if we can be of assistance. Then you can be confident that all is in order with your staff's SBS education and documentation practices when faced with your next audit or legal review.

Good luck and best wishes,

Kelly Cappos, RN, BSN, CPUR, CLNC
PA Shaken Baby Syndrome Nurse Coordinator

12 New Hospitals Join Shaken Baby Program in the Second Quarter 2005!

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

Armstrong Hospital
Butler Hospital
Conemaugh Hospital
Chestnut Hill Hospital
Easton Hospital
Geisinger Medical Center
Main Line: Bryn Mawr Hospital,
Main Line: Lankenau Hospital
Phoenixville Hospital

St. Luke's Medical Center-Allentown
University of Pennsylvania Med Center
Wayne Hospital

If you are one of the 12 PA hospitals listed above then a *Second Quarter 2005 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.

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. An *End of Year Database Report* is sent to all participating hospitals annually.

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

Thank you for taking the time to submit this information in 2005!



Babies are Precious. Handle them with Care!



Contact the SBS Office to schedule an in-service for your staff and receive 1.2 Contact Hours from PNA.

Did You Know...

That the United States Navy has adopted *The Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness and Prevention Program*. They present the SBS education to all US Navy families around the world at the time of a

baby's birth. The Navy has estimated that it costs about a "buck a baby" to provide this valuable education thus saving the Navy millions of dollars over a lifetime of caring for one infant who has sustained injuries from being shaken.

If you submit aggregate data to the SBS Office, please remember to use the new Fax Number:

717-531-0177

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.PASBS.COM



**Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome
Prevention and Awareness Program**
"Saving babies' lives one family at a time."

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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 hospitals are active participants in *The Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention and Awareness Program*

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
Chambersburg Hospital
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital
Chestnut Hill Hospital
Chester County Hospital
Children's Hospital: Philadelphia
Clarion Hospital
Clearfield Hospital
Community Medical Center
Conemaugh Hospital
Corry Memorial Hospital
Dubois Regional Med. Center
Easton Hospital
Elk Regional Health Center
Ellwood City Hospital
Ephrata 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
Hershey Medical Center
Holy Redeemer Hospital
Indiana Hospital
Jameson North
J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital
Jeanes Hospital
Jennersville Regional 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 Hospital
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
Pottsville Hospital
Punxsutawney Hospital
Reading Hospital
Sacred Heart Hospital
Sewickley Valley Hospital
Sharon Regional Health
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial
Somerset Hospital Center
St. Joseph Hospital
St. Luke's: Allentown
St. Luke's: Bethlehem

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

Thank you for your commitment to
"Saving babies lives one family at a time!"