Volume 5 Issue 2 Second Quarter 2008

Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program

"Saving babies' lives one family at a time."

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **AAP to change SBS name**
- **Pennsylvania Demographics article released in May 2008**

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April 2008 was Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue ribbons were distributed in the last SBS newsletter to heighten awareness. Wear your blue ribbon all year long to show your commitment to child abuse prevention!

"WHAT'S IN A NAME???"

Since originally described by Caffey in the early 1970s, the term *Shaken Baby Syndrome* has become synonymous with a particular abusive injury to infants with one or more elements of the triad of intracranial hemorrhages (bleeding within the head), brain damage, and retinal hemorrhages. However, since 1987 studies have increasingly suggested that a significant number of these infants have evidence (skull fractures, scalp bruising or hemorrhage) of impact to the head (likely from being thrown and/or slammed against a surface). It has now become apparent that impact plays an important role in causing these injuries although evidence for an impact may not always be present.

In each individual case it is difficult to know exactly what happened during the abusive event - whether shaking alone, shaking plus impact, or impact alone. Since these crimes are un-witnessed, we have either no description of what really happened or, at best, a confession of the perpetrator who may be minimizing the trauma or even lying. *What is apparent is that, regardless of mechanism, these are abusive injuries.*

The AAP has therefore announced that they will officially change the name of the syndrome to Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) to reflect the contributions of all of these various mechanisms of abusive head injury. We believe strongly that shaking plays an important role in causing these injuries - whether alone or combined with impact. What may start as a shaking event may end with a slam, throw or strike. We will therefore continue to educate parents about the dangers of shaking and all that it leads to, *and our program will continue to emphasize the prevention of violent infant shaking*.

Please continue to help us fight Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma by educating parents and others! Remember, in your discussions with parents, to mention that throwing, slamming and striking an infant can also produce serious brain injuries. It seems self evident that these are injurious, but it bears repeating and reminding!!!!!

Thanks again for your help and courage in preventing SBS/AHT.

Mark S. Dias, MD, FAAP
Professor and Vice Chair of Clinical Neurosurgery
SBS Program Founder

SBS Surveys to be Completed by Parents

We appreciate your efforts to educate all new parents in Pennsylvania about infant abusive head injuries!

In order to assess the effect of this education and which components (the discussion with the nurse, the "Portrait of Promise" video, the PA Department of Health SBS brochure, the voluntary commitment statement and/or the SBS posters on the unit) are perceived by the parents to be the most valuable, we have developed a parent survey about the SBS education that they receive at the time of their baby's birth. The survey as been developed in cooperation with and under the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Our goal is to begin surveying the parents in August 2008.

Each Pennsylvania birthing center, birthing hospital and children's hospital is being asked to provide this survey to all parents ONLY ONE MONTH OUT OF THE YEAR. The month that has been assigned for your facility was randomly selected. Our office will call the OB Unit/NICU of each facility prior to the month that the surveys are to be distributed. After this initial contact each PA hospital and birthing center will receive a packet from our office. This packet will contain:

1. An instructional letter;
2. A packet of SBS surveys, one for mom & one for dad. The number of surveys sent will be based on the average number of births or NICU discharges per month at your specific facility. Spanish surveys are available as per the needs of your department; and
3. A self-addressed business reply envelope to return the completed surveys to us at the end of the month.

Upon receipt of this packet we ask each hospital to:

1. Begin the first day of your assigned survey month
2. Provide the SBS education as you have been doing, & have the parents sign the commitment statement
3. At the completion of the education, ask each mom & each dad to complete their own short survey
4. Place the completed surveys in the business reply envelope provided
5. Mail all completed surveys at the end of the month to the PA SBS Nurse Coordinators in the provided business reply envelope

A sample of the survey is included as an insert in this newsletter. As you can see they are in a scantron format so please instruct the parents to fill in the circles completely and do not X out or use check marks. Please ensure that both sides of the form are completed.

As always, we appreciate the work that you do to help us *"Save Babies Lives One Family at a Time."*

Delete Standard Register from Your SBS Supply Contact List

(Reorder Commitment Statements directly from North Delaware Printing)

In the first quarter 2008 SBS Newsletter, Pennsylvania hospitals and birth centers were notified that as of April 1, 2008, Standard Register would no longer be supplying the SBS parent commitment statements. Please delete jane.hoffman@standardregister.com from your vendor contact list for SBS supplies. Jane has continued to receive requests for these forms which she can not fill.

The new vendor for these forms is now North Delaware Printing. You can place your order directly by:

Email: ndelprint@aol.com

Phone: 716-692-0576 Fax: 716-692-3638

When ordering a case of 1,000 or more forms, please provide Steve at North Delaware Printing with your hospital name, address and contact person. **If emailing use the Subject Title: "SBS Commitment Statements for (your hospital name)".** Shipping costs are paid by the *Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program.* (Reminder: UPS will not deliver to a P.O. Box.) Orders for 800 forms or less can still be placed with the SBS Office by calling 717-531-7498 or emailing any of the three PA Nurse Coordinators at the addresses listed on the back of this newsletter. *Thank You!*

Demographics Study of Infant Abusive Head Trauma in Pennsylvania Released in May 2008

Henry Kesler, MD, Mark Dias, MD and their team of researchers from the Departments of Neurosurgery, Public Health Sciences, and Pediatrics at Penn State Hershey Medical Center have released a study entitled "*Demographics of abusive head trauma in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*". This research was published in the Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics in May 2008.

"The aim of the study was to characterize the incidence and demographic features of abusive head trauma (AHT) among infants and children <36 months of age in Pennsylvania."

The Conclusions note that "*This study provides comprehensive, population-based information about the incidence, seasonal variation, mortality rates, and family demographics of children who have sustained AHT that may prove useful both to those who care for these infants as well as those who are designing ways to prevent it."*

A copy of the full text article has been reproduced with permission from the *Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics* and is enclosed in this newsletter. The results of this study are consistent with previously published literature when noting that the perpetrators are most often parents especially fathers/father figures. This supports the need to continue the statewide effort to educate parents on the dangers of violent shaking. The work that you do every day is very important in preventing abusive head injuries in infants who live in Pennsylvania.

Life can be difficult...

Teach ALL parents about the dangers of shaking, slamming & throwing a baby!

Did You Know...

that the Dias' Model for providing SBS education has been replicated in many states across the United States and in other countries including: Japan, Great Britain, New Zealand, Scotland, and Ontario, Quebec, & Alberta, Canada. These guidelines, which are recommended for education in Pennsylvania, are internationally recognized as "the" standard for parent education in the prevention of infant abusive head injuries.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.PASBS.COM

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

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Preventing Infant Abusive Head Trauma through Parent Education

The *Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & 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 infant abusive head injuries by nearly 50%. In 2002, the identical program was started as a pilot study in central Pennsylvania and *Pennsylvania Law 2002-176: The Shaken Baby Syndrome Education Act* was passed. The program partnered with the *PA Department of Health* to expanded into 100% of all birthing and children's hospitals in Pennsylvania and as of October 2007 the free standing PA Birth Centers.

In October 2007, The *Centers for Disease Control (CDC*) awarded the *Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program* a $2.8 million dollar grant to continue the prevention efforts by expanding the education into Pediatric and Family Practice offices in 16 counties in Central Pennsylvania. Phase II of the program is funded by the CDC for five years.

The Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program provides PNA approved nursing in-services, supplies, educational videos and guidance 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!***

The Hospital Corner

Thank you to the following hospitals & birth centers who participate in shaken baby syndrome education in Pennsylvania!

Abington Memorial Hospital
Albert Einstein Medical Center
Allegheny General Hospital
Altoona Hospital
Armstrong Center for Med & Health
Barnes-Kasson Hospital
Berwick Hospital Center
Birth Care & Family Health Services
Birth Center: Bryn Mawr
Bloomsburg Hospital
Blue Mountain Health System
Bradford Regional Med. Center
Brandywine Hospital
Butler Memorial Hospital
Carlisle Regional Med Center
Central Montgomery Med Center
Chambersburg Hospital
Charles Cole Memorial Hospital
Chester County Hospital
Chestnut Hill Hospital
Children's Hospital: Philadelphia
Children's Hospital: Pittsburgh
Clarion Hospital
Clearfield Hospital
Community Medical Center
Conemaugh Memorial Med Center
Delaware County Memorial Hosp
Doylestown Hospital
Dubois Regional Medical Center
Easton Hospital
Elk Regional Medical Center
Ellwood City Hospital
Ephrata Hospital
Evangelical Community Hospital
Excela Health: Latrobe Hospital
Excela Health: Westmoreland
Forbes Regional Hospital
Geisinger Medical Center
Gettysburg Hospital
GMC: Wyoming Valley
Good Samaritan: Lebanon
Grand View Hospital
Grove City Medical Center
Hahnemann University Hospital
Hamot Medical Center
Hanover General Hospital
Harrisburg Hospital
Hazelton General Hospital
Heart of Lancaster Regional Med Ctr
Heritage Valley HS: Beaver
Holy Redeemer Hosp & Medical Center
Holy Spirit Hospital
Hosp University of Pennsylvania
Indiana Regional Med Center
Jameson North Memorial Hospital
J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital
Jennersville Regional Hosp.
Lancaster Gen Women & Babies Hosp
Lower Bucks
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
Memorial Hospital: Towanda
Memorial Hospital: York
Mercy Hospital: Pittsburgh
Mercy Jeannette Hospital
Mercy Suburban General Hospital
Millcreek Community Hospital
Montgomery Hospital
Moses Taylor Hospital
Mt. Nittany Medical Center
Nason Hospital
Northeastern Hospital
Ohio Valley General Hospital
Penn State Hershey Medical Center
Pennsylvania Hospital
Phoenixville Hospital
Pocono Medical Center
Pottstown Memorial Med. Center
Pottsville Hospital & Warne Clinic
Punxsutawney Hospital
Reading Birth & Women's Center
Reading Hospital & Med Center
Riddle Memorial Hospital
Robert Packer Hospital
Sacred Heart Hospital
Sewickley Valley Hospital
Sharon Regional Health
Soldiers & Sailors Memorial
Somerset Hospital Health Center
St. Christopher's Hospital
St. Clair Memorial Hospital
St. Joseph Med Center of Reading
St. Luke's Hospital: Allentown
St. Luke's Hospital: Bethlehem
St. Mary's Medical Center
St. Vincent Medical Center
Temple University Hospital
Thomas Jefferson University Hosp
Titusville Area Hospital
Tyler Memorial Hospital
Uniontown Hospital
UPMC: Bedford Memorial
UPMC Horizon: Shenango Valley
UPMC: Northwest
Warren General Hospital
Washington Hospital
Wayne Memorial Hospital
Waynesboro Hospital
Western PA Hospital
Wilkes-Barre General Hosp.
Williamsport Hospital
Windber Medical Center
York Hospital

"Have a safe, fun filled summer!