Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program
“Saving babies’ lives one family at a time.”

NICU NURSES PLAY SPECIAL PART IN SBS EDUCATION

When newborn infants require the special medical treatment that is provided in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, their parents face incredible stress. Every minute can make a difference in their fragile newborn’s life. NICU nurses are especially sensitive to the needs of these parents. As they assist the parents through the journey of initial uncertainty, infant stability and long awaited discharge, the NICU nurses carefully anticipate the needs of these infants when they finally arrive home.

As part of discharge planning, Neonatal Intensive Care Units across Pennsylvania provide all parents with information about Shaken Baby Syndrome. Even if parents previously received this education in the Obstetric Unit when the baby was born, often months earlier, the information is reviewed again, or given for the first time, when the infant is discharge from the NICU.

The Pennsylvania Nurse Coordinators for the Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program have provided formal SBS training at Neonatal Intensive Care Units and NICU Conferences across the state, most recently at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia in May 2008. This training identifies the risk factors for Shaken Baby Syndrome which include but are not limited to: caregiver fatigue, stress, infant colic, special needs infants, multiples, inadequate bonding with a premature infant, caregiver propensity for aggressive behavior and parental substance abuse. NICU babies or their parents may fall into more than one of these categories. We recommend that the nurses discuss these risk factors with the parents and offer coping with crying techniques. We recommend that the nurses strongly encourage the mothers to make good decisions when choosing a caregiver for their fragile infant or infants.

We would like to commend the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit nurses across Pennsylvania for doing an excellent job of educating parents in the prevention of abusive head injuries!

Parents of multiples face additional stress when their infants are discharged home from the NICU. The NICU nurses at Harrisburg Hospital were sensitive to the needs of the parents, and their precious daughters, pictured to the left. They carefully and consistently provide shaken baby syndrome education to all new parents prior to discharge.

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NEW ITEMS FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITALS

SBS Posters for the Staff Lounge

We would like to thank Judy Lehnowsky, RN, OB Nurse Manager of Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton, PA for taking the initiative to ensure that her nurses remember all the key elements of shaken baby syndrome education. At Judy’s request we have developed a poster containing the “Key Elements” of SBS education in Pennsylvania that can be displayed as a reminder in the staff lounge. We plan to mail one poster to every OB and NICU in Pennsylvania as soon as they are completed by the printer. A draft of the poster is on the left. If you would like more than one poster for your hospital please contact the PA SBS Nurse Coordinators at the emails on the back of this newsletter or call the PA SBS Office at 717-531-7498.

We welcome your feedback and hope that the posters will assist you with staff compliance.

Hospital SBS Surveys are Under Way

As noted in the Second Quarter 2008 SBS Newsletter, distribution of the Shaken Baby Syndrome Hospital Surveys began in August. After receiving a phone call from our office, five Pennsylvania hospitals were sent a packet containing: the SBS surveys; an instructional cover letter; a parent incentive flyer; and a self-addressed return envelope. Actual surveying of the parents began September 1, 2008.

The surveys were developed in cooperation with and under the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as part of our CDC grant agreement. The goal is to assess the effect of the shaken baby syndrome education which is being provided in Pennsylvania and identify which components (the discussion with the nurse, the “Portrait of Promise” video, the PA Department of Health SBS brochure, the parents voluntary commitment statement and/or the SBS posters on the unit) are perceived by the parents to be the most valuable. A follow up telephone call, when the baby is seven months old, will be conducted with a random selection of parents who volunteer to receive such a call.

Please contact our office at (717) 531-7498 if you have any question about the surveys. Thank you!

All parents who provide their contact information on the hospital survey are automatically entered into a drawing for a gift basket like the one pictured above. The retail value is $150.00 & is provided courtesy of Abbott Nutrition. One basket will be raffled off each month.
NEW PA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SBS CONTACT

Kimberly Early has been the Pennsylvania Department of Health contact person for shaken baby educational materials over the last few years. She has recently accepted another position at the DOH and will no longer function in that role. We wish Kim success in her new position and would like to thank her for her dedication to shaken baby syndrome prevention in Pennsylvania. Amy Flaherty, Public Health Program Manager, will be the interim SBS contact for the hospitals until Kim Early’s position is filled. Amy has been a stronger supporter of the Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program and is dedicated to the statewide efforts to educate parents about infant abusive head injuries.

Effective immediately... please contact Amy directly to order any DOH posters or brochures for your hospital.

Amy Flaherty
Public Health Program Manager
Division of Child & Adult Health Services/Bureau of Family Health
Pennsylvania Department of Health
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PA & NY SBS Prevention Program Team to Speak at the North American Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome in Vancouver, B.C. Canada, October 5-7, 2008

Dr. Mark Dias, the three Pennsylvania Nurse Coordinators, & the two New York Nurse Coordinators of the Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Programs are all scheduled to present at the North American Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome in Vancouver, Canada in October 2008. In addition, Dr. Dias will present two keynote lectures: “Evidence Based Programs and Tested Materials” and “The Case for Shaking in Shaken Baby Syndrome”.

Frequently Asked Question of the Month...

Hospital Question: Patricia Allen, RN of Meadville Medical Center emailed:
“When a mother has twins, triplets, etc, do they need to fill out a voluntary commitment statement for each baby or just one to state that the mom was given the information?”

SBS Program Answer: “If your hospital counts a delivery of multiples as one delivery AND your hospital policy is to place the commitment statements on the mom’s chart then one form can be completed with ALL the babies names on it and put in mom’s chart. (1 delivery = 1 form no matter how many babies were delivered.)

If your hospital’s policy is to place the commitment statement on the baby’s chart then one form must be completed for EACH baby and placed in each baby’s chart. You cannot choose to put it on one chart (Twin A) and not the other (Twin B).

If a baby is in the NICU then one form must be put in each baby’s chart. This is especially important if the infants are discharged at different times.”

Did You Know...

that in 2007, 81% of the perpetrators of infant abusive head injuries in Pennsylvania were parents? The importance of educating parents cannot be overemphasized.
The Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention & Awareness Program

“We’re on the web! www.pasbs.com

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WE’RE ON THE WEB!

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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 expand 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
Bloomburg 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
Excelsa Health: Latrobe Hospital
Excelsa Health: Westmoreland
Forbes Regional Hospital
Geisinger Medical Center
Geisinger Hospital
GMH: Wyoming Valley
Good Samaritan: Lebanon
Grand View Hospital
Grove City Medical Center
Hahnemann University Hospital
Hamot Medical Center
Hanover General Hospital
Harrisburg Hospital
Hazleton General Hospital
Heart of Lancaster Regional Med Ctr
Heritage Valley HS: Beaver
Holy Redeemer Hosp & Medical Center
Holy Spirit Hospital
Hospital 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
Levistown 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 & Wamie 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
Titsville 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

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
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Washington Hospital
Wayne Memorial Hospital
Waynesboro Hospital
Western PA Hospital
Wilkes-Barre General Hosp.
Williamsport Hospital
Windber Medical Center
York Hospital

Happy Halloween!