This study determined the mother’s knowledge and compliance to the newborn screening program of the Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and medical Center (MMMH and MC) as an input to the development of an information guide.

The study is a descriptive research utilizing the interview schedule and documentary analysis in gathering data from 355 mothers who delivered at the MMMH and MC from January to December 2007. Involved in the study were 90 mothers who submitted their offspring to the newborn screening program and 265 mothers who did not submit their newborn to the newborn screening program.

The interview schedule was translated in Iloko dialect to facilitate the conduct of the interview which were done by two trained enumerators hired for the purpose of the study. The quantitative data was supported by qualitative data taken through focused group discussion among ten mothers. Data gathered were tabulated, analyzed and interpreted using frequency, mean, percentage, weighted mean and Pearson r of correlation.

The respondent mothers are young adults with a mean age of about 26 years olds, mostly college graduates, living below the poverty threshold of P 15, 078 having 1-2 children, and living in an extended family.

The mothers are fairly knowledgeable along the implementing policy and implementers of the program. Higher level of knowledge was recorded among mothers who submitted their offspring to the newborn screening test compared to those who did not submit their newborn baby to the screening test.

Regarding advantages of newborn screening the mother had a fairly knowledgeable level. Mothers who submitted their offspring to newborn screening had higher levels of knowledge
on advantages of newborn screening compared to mothers who did not submit their offspring to newborn screening.

The mother’s age, educational attainment, and family income are significantly related to their knowledge levels about newborn screening. Mothers who are more matured, with higher educational attainment and monthly family incomes have higher knowledge about newborn screening.

The respondent mothers lack knowledge about the newborn screening act in terms of its implementing rules, its advantages and the agencies implementing the program.

Compliance to newborn screening at Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital and medical Center is not impressive. Low compliance is due to financial constraints of mothers and their families.