

*Universal Eye Screening  
for Every Child in the Nation*

*Because We Owe Our Children  
the Right to See*



## What is FOREVER?

FOREVER is a new community pediatric eye program pioneered by Narayana Nethralaya under the expanded KIDROP initiative, which comprises of universal screening of all babies born until the age of one, using a low cost method at the grass roots of our health care delivery system.

## Background of FOREVER:

KIDROP's pilot data revealed that about 7% of infants being screened for ROP were detected to have other eye problems that were serendipitously picked up during imaging by the KIDROP team's technicians. Some of these conditions were serious (eye cancer) and most others needed treatment (cataracts, corneal problems etc). Others alerted the Ophthalmologist to refer the baby for life threatening conditions that had eye manifestations (cherry red spots, infective vasculitis etc).

This resulted in the next research question, "What is the incidence of finding eye problems in all new borns, premature and term?". This resulted in a new pilot called the Karnataka Universal Screening Program (KUSP). Under this program, 1000 (all new born) infants were screened within the first 5 days of life. An incidence of 3% of eye problems were detected. This has strengthened the resolve to perform universal eye screening for all infants. While imaging each child seems the utopian dream, FOREVER is a major step forward in integrating universal eye screening at the grass roots of our rural areas, even where imaging teams and facilities do not exist.

## Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) and FOREVER:

In February 2013, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, under the National Rural Health Mission, released a new ambitious program, the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).

RBSK is designed to provide universal screening to over 27 crore babies born each year in our country, for early screening of the 4D's: Defects at birth, Diseases, Deficiencies and Developmental delay leading to Disability. The Ophthalmology component of RBSK is not yet detailed in the program's operational guidelines.

## Other conditions detected during KIDROP screening



Cherry red spot



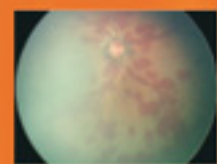
Retinal vasculitis



Congenital cataract



Retinoblastoma



Retinal hemorrhages



Incontinentia pigmenti



Microcornea



Coloboma

**RBSK was launched by Govt. of India on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013**





In a commissioning letter of support in January 2013, Government of India suggested that Karnataka state should pilot FOREVER in selected taluks to provide pilot data to serve for an all India expansion through the backbone of the RBSK.

Narayana Nethralaya is the chosen eye care provider for this pilot, which will use the backbone of its successful KIDROP model for its implementation.

### FOREVER Strategy:

- + FOREVER uses the most important backbone of the NRHM's health care delivery system, the ASHA worker (Accredited Social Health Activist).
- + ASHA workers are trained to examine babies at critical time points, namely before 21 days of life, 14<sup>th</sup> week and 9<sup>th</sup> month, using a low cost method of visual cues and pattern recognition based on a module of training provided by Narayana Nethralaya.
- + FOREVER cards are given to each mother. If a child is less than 2000 gram (birth weight) it is referred for ROP screening, if it is greater than 2 kgs, then it is followed for universal screening. The tear off portion of the card is retained by the ASHA and details are sent by SMS to the FOREVER project team.
- + Babies detected to be 'abnormal' are referred to the Taluk level and thereafter the district hospital depending on their diagnosis.
- + Validation of positive cases will be undertaken by Narayana Nethralaya's team of experts.
- + ASHA's are incentivized for babies who are positive for eye conditions after validation.
- + In this pilot, 16 taluks are chosen in Karnataka. A special team from Narayana Nethralaya will train over 3200 ASHA workers. The proposal has been accepted by the Government of Karnataka and implementation will commence in the first quarter of FY 2013-14.

Sample FOREVER card

**FOREVER**  
 State Directorate of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Karnataka  
 Karnataka State Health and Family Welfare Department

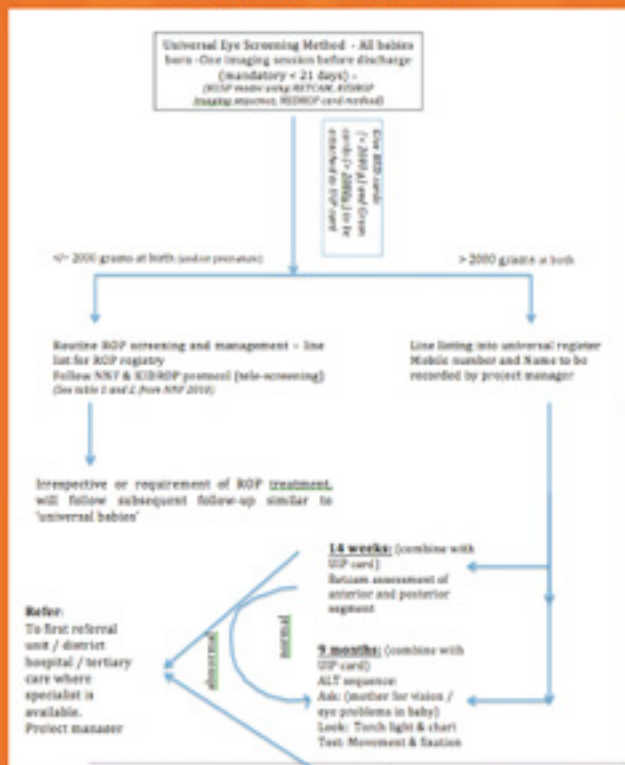
**BABY DETAILS:**  
 Baby Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sex:  Male  Female  
 Birth Weight: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birth Length: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birth Place: \_\_\_\_\_

**Eye Examination Results:**  
 Right Eye:  Normal  Abnormal  
 Left Eye:  Normal  Abnormal

**Mandatory Visits:**

Visit	When to visit	What to do	Who to visit
1 <sup>st</sup> visit	Within 21 days of birth	Check for ROP, cataract, strabismus, and other eye conditions	ASHA / Project Manager
2 <sup>nd</sup> visit	14 weeks of age	Check for ROP, cataract, strabismus, and other eye conditions	ASHA / Project Manager
3 <sup>rd</sup> visit	9 months of age	Check for ROP, cataract, strabismus, and other eye conditions	ASHA / Project Manager

Algorithm for screening



FOREVER proposal presented at "Call India to Action" summit (Govt. of India) on Feb. 8th, 2013.



### Proposed Taluks for FOREVER pilot - 2013

Sl No	District	Taluks
1	Davangere	Davangere, Channagiri, Hanjar, Jagalur, Harpanahalli
2	Bagalkot	Bagalkot, Mudhol, Badami, Jamakhandi, Blag
3	Mandya	Mandya, Maddur, K R Pete, Malvalli, Srirangapatna
4	Bangalore Urban	Anekal