



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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CIRCULAR NO.2/2025: TB CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

**NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT HAST & MCWH MANAGERS;
DISTRICT MANAGERS; HOSPITAL CEOs; PHC SUPERVISORS &
MANAGERS PHC FACILITY; DISTRICT CLINICAL SPECIALIST TEAMS
(DCSTs) REGIONAL TRAINING CENTRE MANAGERS; ALL DOCTORS,
NURSES, PHARMACISTS & PHARMACY ASSISTANTS**

REVISED GUIDANCE ON TB PREVENTATIVE THERAPY (TPT) IN PREGNANCY


The National Guidelines on the Treatment of Tuberculosis Infection (TPT Guidelines) of 2023, include offering Isoniazid (IPT) to pregnant women (PW) who are found to be eligible for TB Preventative Therapy. This included PW living with HIV (PWLHIV) and contacts of TB cases.

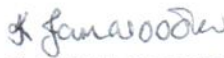
The Expert Review Committee of the National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC) conducted an evidence review on the use of IPT in pregnancy. The findings of this review were that there is an increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes after IPT exposure in pregnancy. In PWLHIV with high CD4 counts (>350 cells/mm³), these risks outweigh the benefit of IPT during pregnancy. While there is evidence of benefit of IPT in PWLHIV with lower CD4 counts (i.e. CD4 ≤ 350 cells/mm³), the National Department of Health's TB Programme was concerned with the complexity of implementing multiple guidance for PWLHIV at various CD4 counts. The consensus recommendation from a multi-stakeholder group including the NEMLC and TB Programme for the use of IPT in pregnancy is, therefore, as follows:

- Initiation of IPT should be deferred in all pregnant women, irrespective of HIV status, until after delivery.
- IPT should be stopped immediately in PW who are already on IPT.
- For PWLHIV, in the absence of IPT initiation, the importance of ART and continued active screening for TB throughout pregnancy should be emphasized.
- For PWLHIV, screening for IPT should be done immediately post-partum, and IPT initiated if not previously administered.
- In HIV negative PW who are contacts of TB cases, routine screening for TB should be done as per national policy for all clients who access health care facilities.

Managers should bring the contents of this circular to all relevant staff and ensure that the contents of the circular are adhered to and complied with. A copy of the NEMLC evidence summary - Isoniazid Preventive Therapy in Pregnancy is accessible on the National Health Insurance (NHI) webpage on the National Department of Health's (NDoH) website on the following link:

https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/IPT-evidence-summary_V.1.2_15-April-2024_Final-1.pdf


PROF N NDJEKA
CHIEF DIRECTOR:
TB CONTROL & MANAGEMENT
DATE: 29/01/2025


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