



Reference: 2025/06/09/EDP/01

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ERRATUM TO THE PUBLISHED ADULT HOSPITAL LEVEL (AHL) STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES (STGs) AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINE LIST (EML), CHAPTER 14: NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS

Please note the following correction to the recently published Adult Hospital Level (AHL) Chapter 14: Neurological Disorders in line with Circular referenced: EDP062025/01 disseminated on 6 June 2025. Page 14.24 of the Neurological Disorders Chapter included Figure 4. Risk of congenital structural malformations and neurodevelopment harms associated with various antiseizures medicines. The level of risk of antiseizure medicines was incorrectly reversed on this figure. The figure has been corrected and updated as shown below, and can be found at the following URL: <a href="https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Adult-Hospital-Chapter-14-Neurological-Disorders-with-supporting-NEMLC-Report-Reviews-2020-4-Version-2.0-6-June-2024_.pdf

Lowest risk Lamotrigine, levetiracetam Associated with no, or minimally increased, risk of structural malformations compared to general population. Limited data on the risk of neurodevelopmental harms. Carbamazepine Associated with a modestly increased risk of structural malformations and neurodevelopmental harms. Phenobarbital, phenytoin, topiramate Associated with a moderately increased risk of structural malformations and neurodevelopmental harms. Valproate Associated with the highest risk of structural malformations and neurodevelopmental harms.

Figure 4. Risk of congenital structural malformations and neurodevelopment harms associated with various antiseizures medicines.

Increasing risk refers to increasing number of pregnancies or children affected.

(Adapted from Pennell PB. Neurotherapeutics. 2016 and Medicines &

Healthcare products Regulatory Agency safety leaflet).

LoE:IVbxxxix

These amendments will be reflected in the final edition of the AHL 2024, 6th edition once published.

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Erratum dissemination

Provinces and Healthcare Facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information in consultation with the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees and all other relevant stakeholders.

Kind regards

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CHIEF DIRECTOR: SECTOR WIDE PROCUREMENT

DATE: 09 June 2025