



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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**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**

**RE: UPDATE TO THE GUIDANCE ON ISONIAZID PREVENTATIVE THERAPY (IPT)
IN PREGNANCY**

NOTE: This circular is an update to the previous circular issued on 6 December 2024.

Subsequent to publication of the consensus recommendation for the use of IPT in pregnant women (communication dated 6 December 2025), clinicians raised concerns about deferring IPT until after delivery in pregnant women with advanced HIV, who are at highest risk of developing active tuberculosis. This has prompted a revision of the guidance issued.

Following a consultation process involving local clinical experts, representatives from the TB and HIV programs as well as the National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC), an updated consensus recommendation has been agreed upon, which is as follows:

For pregnant women living with HIV:

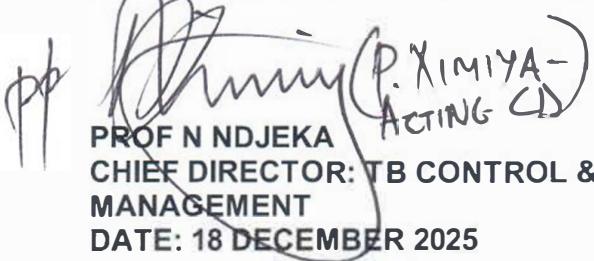
- » If CD4 count > 200 cells/mm³ and initiating ART, defer IPT until after delivery.
- » If CD4 count ≤ 200 cells/mm³ and initiating ART, offer 12 months of isoniazid as IPT, after excluding active tuberculosis.

Ensure that routine screening against TB is conducted at each antenatal visit.

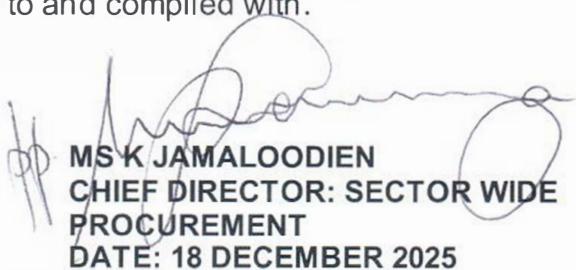
For further details, refer to the updated NEMLC evidence summary: Isoniazid Preventive Therapy in Pregnancy, accessible on the National Health Insurance (NHI) webpage on the National Department of Health's (NDoH) website on the following link:
https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Isoniazid-Preventative-Therapy-IPT-in-Pregnancy_V2.0-27-November-2025.pdf

Relevant sections of the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) [PHC Section 11.2.2 and AH Section 10.2.1 *Tuberculosis Preventative Therapy*], are in the process of being revised accordingly. The Standard National Guidelines on the Treatment of Tuberculosis Infection (TPT Guidelines) of 2023, will similarly be updated to include this revised guidance.

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.



PROF N NDJEKA
CHIEF DIRECTOR: TB CONTROL &
MANAGEMENT
DATE: 18 DECEMBER 2025



MS K JAMALOODIEN
CHIEF DIRECTOR: SECTOR WIDE
PROCUREMENT
DATE: 18 DECEMBER 2025