



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Reference: 2026/03/24/EDP/01

NOTICE: PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC) APPROVED UPDATES TO THE PRIMARY HEALTHCARE (PHC), ADULT HOSPITAL LEVEL (AHL) AND PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL (PHL) CHAPTERS FOR THE STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES (STGs) AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST (EML): 2025 – 2029 REVIEW CYCLE

Below is a list of the recently published 2026 chapter updates to previous editions of the PHC, AHL and PHL STGs and EML. Updates to chapters and supporting technical documents (medicine reviews, costing reports, NEMLC reports, implementation slides for PHC level) for the 2025 – 2029 review cycle are uploaded onto the National Health Insurance (NHI) webpage following finalisation for publication, accessible online @ <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/>.

PHC Chapters with the associated NEMLC reports	Status
Chapter 11: HIV (Version 1.0)	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 11.2.2 Tuberculosis Preventative Therapy (TPT) in pregnancy STG 11.11 HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
Chapter 20: Pain (Version 1.0)	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 20.4 Chronic cancer pain – Lactulose dosing for constipation
AHL Chapters with the associated NEMLC reports	Status
Chapter 6: Obstetrics (Version 1.0)	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 6.14 Labour Pain, Severe – <i>Pethidine not added to the therapeutic interchange database</i>
Chapter 10: HIV and AIDS (Version 1.0)	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 10.1 Antiretroviral Therapy Inclusion of Darunavir/Ritonavir as a special access item, as recommended by the National ARV Drug Resistance Committee (ADRec) STG 10.2.1 Tuberculosis preventative therapy (TPT) in pregnancy
Chapter 12: Anaesthesiology And Intensive Care (Version 1.0)	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 12.2.1 Intravenous Induction (And/or Maintenance) Agents – Deletion of Thiopental IV
PHL Chapters with the associated NEMLC reports and errata	Status
Chapter 2: Alimentary Tract	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 2.2.2 Constipation/faecal loading – Correction and adjustment of lactulose dosing for constipation
Chapter 20: Pain Control	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 20.1.1.1 Acute Pain – Correction and adjustment of lactulose dosing for constipation

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Chapter 21: Palliative Care	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 21.1.1.4 Constipation – Correction and adjustment of lactulose dosing for constipation 						
Chapter 9: Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infections	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 9.1 Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infections – Inclusion of Darunavir/Ritonavir for children as a special access item, as recommended by the National ARV Drug Resistance Committee (ADRec) 						
Chapter 18: Poisoning	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 18.1.9 Organophosphate Poisoning – Updates to atropine dosing guidance <i>See Errata: Reference: 2026/03/23EDP/02</i>						
Annexure1: Amoxicillin/Clavulanic Acid – Weight band dosing table	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dosing recommendations end at > 25kg and > 7 years, and removal of maximum amoxicillin dose <i>See Errata: Reference: 2026/03/23EDP/02</i>						
PHC Implementation Slides	Status						
Chapter 11: HIV	As per key chapter updates						
Chapter 20: Pain	As per key chapter updates						
List of Medicine Reviews and Costing Analyses: Please refer to the individual medicine reviews and/or economic reports for the NEMLC recommendation which may/ may not support inclusion on the EML.							
Review	Level of Care						
Historically accepted use review of darunavir/ritonavir	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>PHC</td> <td>✓</td> <td>PHL</td> <td>✓</td> <td>AHL</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	PHC	✓	PHL	✓	AHL	✓
PHC	✓	PHL	✓	AHL	✓		
Evidence Summary Isoniazid Preventative Therapy in Pregnancy	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>PHC</td> <td>✓</td> <td>AHL</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	PHC	✓	AHL	✓		
PHC	✓	AHL	✓				
Lenacapavir as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) against HIV infection	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>PHC</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	PHC	✓				
PHC	✓						
Economic Analysis – Lenacapavir for PrEP	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>PHC</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	PHC	✓				
PHC	✓						

The documents listed above will also be available on the EMGuidance application platform in due course. To sign up, please click on the link: <http://onelink.to/sy896k>.

Please refer to the chapter, corresponding NEMLC report and evidence-based medicine review/s and costing reports (where available) for detailed explanations of all the medicine, general measures and editorial amendments made to the STGs and EMLs in the 2025 – 2029 review cycle.

Provinces and Healthcare facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information in consultation with the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees for immediate implementation. Kindly share with all healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders.

Queries may be submitted via e-mail to:
E-mail: SAEDP@health.gov.za

Kind regards,



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DATE: 24/03/2026