

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2026

NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE BULLETIN

HELD ON THE 26 FEBRUARY & 26 MARCH 2026: MEETING OUTCOMES FOR STAKEHOLDER DISEMINATION

Accessible on the following platform:

National Health Insurance (NHI) Webpage <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-comms/>

AT A GLANCE

- KEY UPDATES TO THE STGS & EMLS
- RATIFIED GUIDANCE, POLICY UPDATES AND CIRCULARS
- TOPIC PRIORITISATION FOR 2025 – 2029
- WEBINAR UPDATES

The following are the latest editions of the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML)

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE



**STGs and EML
8th Edition
Updated March 2026**

ADULT HOSPITAL LEVEL



**STGs and EML
6th Edition
Updated March 2026**

PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL



**STGs and EML
2025-2029 Review Cycle
updated March 2026**

TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY



**EML
November 2025 Edition**

ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST SPREADSHEET



A list of all the medicines found in the STGs and is an automatic download from the EDP website

https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Essential-Medicines-List_V1.1-2-October-2025.xlsx

CLICK HERE



Email: SAEDP@health.gov.za

Stock Queries: stockalert@health.gov.za

Join the **EDP WhatsApp Channel** for real-time updates -

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GEN6bH1rKYVKSJ1bz34Ne9>



ACCESS TO THE STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

1

National Health Insurance (NHI) Webpage

The STGs and EML can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/>

Refer to Annexure A for guidance on how to navigate the webpage and access the relevant documents



2

Knowledge Hub eLibrary

All the STGs, EMLs and related technical documents from the 2020-2024 review period have been moved to the NHI webpage on the NDoH website. If there are any historic technical documents you may require, please email the Essential Drugs Programme (EDP) at SAEDP@health.gov.za.



3

EMGuidance Mobile Application

To sign up, use the following link:

<http://onelink.to/sy896t>. Please note there may be a 6 week delay before the updated documents published on the NHI webpage are uploaded onto the EMGuidance platform. During that process, a temporary link to the latest PDF version of each chapter will be inserted into the revised chapters on the EMGuidance platform. Once the upload is complete, the temporary link will be replaced with the new material and a footer indicating the version number.



4

Webinar Recordings

For webinar recordings aimed at strengthening implementation of the STGs and EML visit:

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinars>

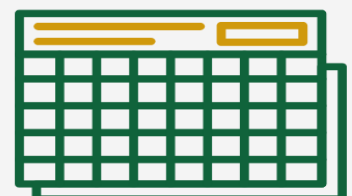


5

EML Spreadsheet

Updated version now available – Version 1.1.

New: Antibiotic AWaRe categorisation tab, as well as corrections to the old version 1.0.





Access to the NDoH, Essential Drugs Programme Circulars

Circulars developed are disseminated to stakeholders and uploaded on the EDP page on the NHI webpage. These circulars can be accessed on the following links:

NHI Webpage:

<https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-comm/>

The following circulars were disseminated for the period **January 2026 - May 2026**:

- i Notice AMD/14 January 2026:** Zinc Picolinate – 14 January 2026
- i Notice AMD/EDP/27022026:** Availability of Nevirapine 50mg/5ml suspension 100ml and 240ml – 27 February 2026
- i Notice 20260309/EDP01:** Cisatracurium; 5mg/2ml, Injection; 2.5ml and Cisatracurium 10mg/5ml Injection; 5ml stock supply shortage and proposed therapeutic alternatives – 09 March 2026
- i Updated Notice 20260316/EDP01:** Dinoprostone Vaginal Gel; 1mg/3g; prefilled syringe stock supply shortage and the proposed therapeutic alternatives – 16 March 2026
- i Notice 2026/03/24/EDP/01:** 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): 20205-2029 Review Cycle – 24 March 2026
- i Notice 2026/03/23/EDP/01:** Retraction of circular reference 2026/01.19/EDP/01: Availability of new antiretroviral products: Paediatric Abacavir/ Lamivudine/ Dolutegravir (ABC/3TC/DTG) 60mg/30mg/5mg Fixed-Dose combination dispersible tablets (pALD) – 01 April 2026
- i Notice 03/2026/CMU:** Interruption in the supply of Innovata Pharmaceuticals (Pty) L's Paracetamol; 500mg; tablet; 20 tablets on contract – 31 March 2026
- i Errata 2026/03/31/EDP/01:** Errata to the Adult Hospital Level (AHL) Chapter 2: Blood and Blood Forming Organs in the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicine List – 31 March 2026
- i Notice AMD/EDP/18032026-1:** Supply constraints with rifabutin 150mg capsules for Tuberculosis (TB) treatment – interim therapeutic alternatives – 23 March 2026
- i Errata 2026/03/31EDP/02:** Erratum to the Paediatric Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicine List – 08 April 2026
- i Notice 2026/04/10/EDP/02:** Biperiden; 5mg/ml; Injection; 1ml stock supply shortage and the proposed therapeutic alternative – 13 April 2026
- i Notice 2026/04/23/EDP/01:** Publication of the National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC) approved updates to the Primary Healthcare (PHC) and Adult Hospital Level (AHL) Chapters for the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML): 2025 – 2029 Review Cycle – 23 April 2026
- i Notice 2026/04/26/EDP/TB-01:** Non-availability of Ethambutol 400mg Tablets – 29 April 2026
- i Notice EDP/11052026:** Summary of the implications of awards on the HP09-2026SD: Solid Dosage Forms National contract to the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List – 15 May 2026
- i Notice AMD/EDP/07052026:** Availability of Zidovudine 50mg/5ml syrup – 21 May 2026

If you would like to be added to the mailing list for latest EDP updates (circulars, chapter updates etc.) please complete the following form by clicking on the link: [Essential Drugs Programme Mailing List Form](#)



NOTICEBOARD

CONSOLIDATED ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST FOR ALL LEVELS OF CARE ACCESSIBLE ONLINE

The **EML** from the latest versions of the STGs and EML has been extracted into an Excel® spreadsheet. The extracted EML is not intended to replace the STGs but should only serve as a guide to which medicines are approved for use in the South African public health sector. For any guidance on how these medicines should be used, the relevant STGs and EML should be consulted. Please review the **'READ FIRST'** tab for further information and disclaimers. For insight on the most recent updates to the sheet, kindly review the "VERSION CONTROL" tab. This spreadsheet is available for download from the EDP webpage on the National Health Insurance webpage:

<https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/>

THERAPEUTIC INTERCHANGE DATABASE

The **Therapeutic Interchange (TI) database** (2019/2020 edition) has been removed from the NDoH webpage as it is being updated to align with the current medicine recommendations. It will be uploaded once the updated version is available. For any interim queries on the TI database, kindly contact the EDP on the following email address: SAEDP@health.gov.za. The TI Policy may still be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Therapeutic-Interchange-Policy-July2021-final.pdf>

PETHIDINE

TAKE NOTE: Historically, pethidine IM was listed as an essential medicine for labour pain, severe. During the 2016-2018 review cycle, NEMLC recommended morphine replace pethidine on the STGs and EML for the indication of labour pain, severe as morphine IM was reviewed as safer for mother and baby. In the current review period, following a contracting query as to whether pethidine should appear on the TI database, NEMLC has recommended retention of the previous review cycle decision as morphine is preferred to pethidine for the indication of labour pain. Pethidine was therefore not added to the TI database

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The **NEMLC and ERC Terms of Reference** has been updated and is published on the Essential Drugs Programme page, Governance and Policies tab on the STGs and EML page on the NHI webpage or can be found on the following link:

ERC:
<https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Expert-Review-Committee-ERC-Terms-of-Reference-Version-3-22-May-2026.pdf>

NEMLC:
<https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/National-Essential-Medicines-List-Committee-NEMLC-Terms-of-Reference-Version-4-22-May-2026.pdf>

LENACAPAVIR

Lenacapavir has been added to the PHC EML and STGs as an option for HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

Supply: Limited supply from the Global Fund allocation is in the process of being rolled out. The NDoH remains committed to ensuring a sustainable supply going forward.

A copy of the LEN evidence review is accessible online:
<https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Lenacapavir-as-PrEP-Against-HIV-Infection-Medicine-Review-16-October-2025.pdf>



TOPIC PRIORITISATION FOR THE 2025-2029 REVIEW CYCLE

Due to the large volume of potential topics for review, the NEMLC adopts a systematic approach of topic prioritisation and selection of review topics to inform updates to the STGs and EML. There are specific time periods when comments and topic nomination submissions are accepted:

- A call for nomination of topics for review occurs at the beginning of each NEMLC cycle (last call - December 2024 for NEMLC Cycle 2025-2029 – call closed February 2025 – refer to Notice 2024/12/12/EDP/01);
- Calls for external comment may be sent out on specific chapters which have been selected for review during the scoping stage of the review
- Calls for external comments are disseminated after NEMLC has approved an STG and EML update and reviews for external comment. The call for comment is aimed at obtaining feedback specifically related to the update recommended (e.g. STG chapter or section).

All comments and topic nominations (for STG and medicine reviews) received during call for comment are systematically logged for record purposes. Prioritisation occurs per cycle and is reviewed annually if required. Submission of comments or nomination of topics for STG or medicine review does not automatically guarantee that a topic will be reviewed by the NEMLC within the current review cycle.

To manage capacity, submissions received outside of the call of comment periods will be logged but may only be considered for potential prioritisation in the next NEMLC review phase commencing in 2029. Topics which require immediate addressing *i.e.* safety issues, are welcomed throughout the review cycle and if classified as urgent will be fast tracked for review.

Calls for comment, including topic nominations, are circulated through the standard EDP communication channels. Please request to be added at SAEDP@health.gov.za or use this link: [Essential Drugs Programme Mailing List Form](#) if you do not receive these emails. There is also an updated form for submissions, please request this form as the previous medicine motivation form is no longer accepted.

Several broad NEMLC topic areas were approved by NEMLC in June 2025 for further scoping and prioritisation - see the NEMLC Bulletin dated, 4 September 2025, and accessible at:

<https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-comm/>

Scoping documents and prioritisation of specific topics were ratified by NEMLC in October 2025 for the following broad NEMLC Topic Areas: Endocrine, Oncology, Respiratory and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). Technical work has commenced through the respective ERC Evidence Working Groups.

The following items were presented to NEMLC in February and March 2026 for discussion and ratification:

February 2026:

- NEMLC ratified the updates to the PHC Chapter 11 Section 11.1 HIV PrEP for publication. The updated chapter and supporting documents can be accessed *via* the following link: <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/PHC-Chapter-11-HIV-and-AIDS-V1.0-Final-26-Feb-2026.pdf>
- Thiopentone IV has been discontinued from the South African market. The product has therefore been removed from the Adult Hospital Level (AHL) STGs and EML; the update reflected in the AHL Chapter 12 Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care accessible *via* the following link: [Adult-Hospital-Chapter-12-Anaesthesiology-and-Intensive-Care-with-supporting-NEMLC-Report-2025-9-Version-1.0-26-February-2026.pdf](https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Adult-Hospital-Chapter-12-Anaesthesiology-and-Intensive-Care-with-supporting-NEMLC-Report-2025-9-Version-1.0-26-February-2026.pdf). Alternatives included on the AHL STGs and EML for intravenous induction and/or maintenance of anaesthesia include propofol IV, etomidate IV and ketamine IV.
- Following an external comment, lactulose dosing for children was standardised to age based dosing in the PHC and Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML as outlined in the update reflected in the PHC Chapters 20: Pain and 22: Medicines Used in Palliative Care accessible via the following links: <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/PHC-Chapter-20-Pain-with-supporting-NEMLC-Report-2025-9-Review-V1.0-26-February-2026.pdf> and <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Primary-Healthcare-Chapter-22-Medicines-Used-in-Palliative-Care-with-supporting-NEMLC-Report-Version-1.0-30-March-2026.pdf>. The Paediatric Hospital Level updates are reflected in the following Chapters – Chapter 2: Alimentary Tract; Chapter 20: Pain Control; and Chapter 21: Palliative care, accessible here: https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Paediatric-STGs-and-EML-2025-2029-Review-Cycle_Updated-March-2026.pdf.
- The Draft STG for AHL Chapter 7: Nephrological /urological disorders was ratified for publication for external comments. The closing date for comments was 20 March 2026.
- The PHL STGs and EML Chapter 18: Poisoning and Annexure 1: Amoxicillin/Clavulanic Acid – Weight Band Dosing table were ratified, and these updates are reflected in the Notice: **Errata 2026/03/31EDP/02**: Erratum to the Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML – 08 April 2026 and the PHL STGs and EML accessible here: <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Paediatric-STG-EML-errata-08-April-2026.pdf>.

March 2026:

- Following comments received, the circular on Dinoprostone vaginal gel was updated and can be accessed via the following link: [UPDATE-Dinoprostone-vaginal-gel-stock-constraints-and-proposed-therapeutic-alternatives-16-March-2026.pdf](https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/UPDATE-Dinoprostone-vaginal-gel-stock-constraints-and-proposed-therapeutic-alternatives-16-March-2026.pdf)
- Following an external comment received, the PHC Chapter 6: Obstetrics and Gynaecology and AHL Chapter 6: Obstetrics was updated regarding Anti-D immunoglobulin and can be accessed via the following links:
 - AHL: [Adult-Hospital-Chapter-6-Obstetrics-with-supporting-NEMLC-report-review-2025-9-Version-2.0-26-March-2026.pdf](https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Adult-Hospital-Chapter-6-Obstetrics-with-supporting-NEMLC-report-review-2025-9-Version-2.0-26-March-2026.pdf)
 - PHC: [Primary-Healthcare-Chapter-6-Obstetrics-Gynaecology-with-supporting-NEMLC-report-2025-9-Version-1.0-26-March-2026.pdf](https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Primary-Healthcare-Chapter-6-Obstetrics-Gynaecology-with-supporting-NEMLC-report-2025-9-Version-1.0-26-March-2026.pdf)
- The review on progesterone in twin pregnancies was ratified by NEMLC and the updated AHL Chapter 6: Obstetrics can be accessed *via* the following link: [Adult-Hospital-Chapter-6-Obstetrics-with-supporting-NEMLC-report-review-2025-9-Version-2.0-26-March-2026.pdf](https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Adult-Hospital-Chapter-6-Obstetrics-with-supporting-NEMLC-report-review-2025-9-Version-2.0-26-March-2026.pdf)
- Following stock shortages of Biperiden 5mg/ml injection, a circular was published outlining the alternatives that can be used and can be accessed *via* the following link: [Circular-Biperiden-5mg-per-ml-Injection-Stock-Supply-Shortage-and-the-Proposed-Therapeutic-Alternative-13-April-2026.pdf](https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Circular-Biperiden-5mg-per-ml-Injection-Stock-Supply-Shortage-and-the-Proposed-Therapeutic-Alternative-13-April-2026.pdf)

ACCESS TO OTHER EML RELATED PAGES

<https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-hpp-amd/>



Master Health Product List (MHPL)

Contains all pharmaceutical products currently awarded on national contracts and can be accessed on the Pharmaceutical Tenders and Contracts page, on the following link:

<https://www.health.gov.za/tenders/>

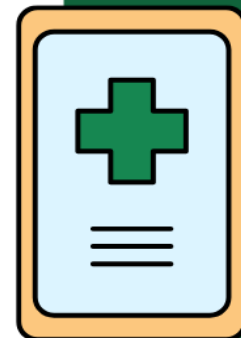
The document also contains different tabs listing pharmaceutical products not awarded on national contracts and a list of items with Provincial Procurement on Quotations (PPQ). The MHPL is updated monthly.

Section 21 Medicines

Refer to unregistered medicines that can be accessed under specific circumstances by obtaining written authorisation from the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA). SAHPRA may provide authority for the bulk sale and use of the unregistered medicine in accordance with the provisions of the Medicines and Related Substances Act 101 of 1965. Medicines not registered with SAHPRA may be considered for review for inclusion in the STGs and EML under exceptional circumstances, as specified in this document:

<https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Section-21-Considerations-for-Inclusion-in-the-STGs-EML-and-Therapeutic-Interchange-Database-28-November-2025.pdf>

The management of the Section 21 medicines procured in bulk in the public sector is undertaken by the Affordable Medicines Directorate, NDoH. The list of medicines currently procured through Section 21 Authorisations can be accessed on the Contract Management Unit (CMU) page, on the following link: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-hpp-amd-cmu/>



Hot List

Refers to a list of all essential medicines on contract where stock availability remains below 90% and where total orders exceed supplier stock on hand and available stock on hand by provinces is less than two months of forecasted demand. The list includes the root cause for the supply challenge and proposed remedial actions for each listed item.

The current Hot List can be accessed on the CMU page, on the following link: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-hpp-amd-cmu/>

Kindly direct all queries, concerns or reports related to stock discrepancies, shortages or other stock related issues to the Department using the following e-mail address: stockalert@health.gov.za, as detailed in Circular no. 13/2025/CMU: Stock Shortage Escalation Protocol circulated on 06 November 2025. (https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Stock-out-Escalation-Protocol_February-2024.pdf)

STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST



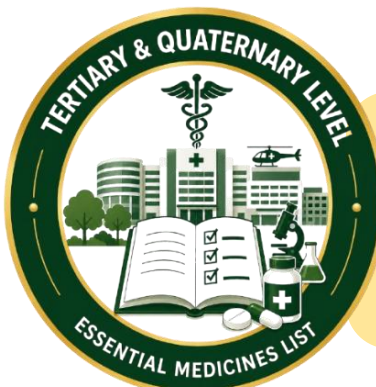
The consolidated **Primary Healthcare STGs and EML (2025-2029 review cycle)**, updated **March 2026** is available for download on the NHI webpage on the Primary Healthcare tab or on the following link: health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Primary-Healthcare-Standard-Treatment-Guidelines-and-Essential-Medicines-List-8th-Edition-Updated-March-2026-v2.0.pdf



The consolidated **Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML (2025 – 2029 review cycle)**, updated **March 2026**, is available for download on the NHI webpage on the Hospital Level – Adults tab or on the following link: health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Hospital-Level-Adults-Standard-Treatment-Guidelines-and-Essential-Medicines-List-6th-Edition-2024_Updated-March-2026.pdf



The completed **Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML (2025-2029 review cycle)** updated **March 2026**, is available for download on the NHI webpage on the Hospital Level – Paediatrics tab or on the following link: [Paediatric-STGs-and-EML-2025-2029-Review-Cycle_Updated-March-2026.pdf](https://health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Paediatric-STGs-and-EML-2025-2029-Review-Cycle_Updated-March-2026.pdf)



The **Tertiary and Quaternary Hospital Level EML, updated November 2025** is available for download on the NHI webpage on the following link: [Tertiary-and-Quaternary-EM-recommendations-November-2025.pdf](https://health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Tertiary-and-Quaternary-EM-recommendations-November-2025.pdf)
Final reviews and supporting technical documents are published on the NHI webpage on the following link: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-em/>

WEBINAR SERIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STGS & EML

PREVIOUS WEBINARS
2024 - 2025
UPDATES TO THE STGS & EML

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY
ASSESSMENT

25 JUNE 2024

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/national-department-health-standard-treatment-guidelines-essential-medicines-list-session-1>

1

2

MENTAL HEALTH
CONDITIONS

16 JULY 2024

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/mental-health-updates-ndoh-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicine-list>

OBSTETRICS &
GYNAECOLOGY, & FAMILY
PLANNING

30 JULY 2024

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/obstetrics-and-gynaecology-and-family-planning-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential>

3

4

ADULT CRITICAL
CARE

13 AUGUST 2024

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/adult-critical-care-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list>

INFECTIONS &
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE
SURVEILLANCE REPORT

27 AUGUST 2024

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/infections-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-and-antimicrobial>

5

6

EMERGENCIES AND
INJURIES & POISONINGS

17 SEPTEMBER 2024

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/emergencies-injuries-and-poisonings-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines>

HIV & AIDS

29 OCTOBER 2024

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/hiv-and-aids-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list>

7

8

BLOOD AND BLOOD
FORMING ORGANS,
HAEMOPHILIA

26 NOVEMBER 2024

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/blood-and-blood-forming-organs-and-haemophilia-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential>

CARDIOVASCULAR
CONDITIONS

11 FEBRUARY 2025

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/cardiovascular-conditions-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list>

9

10

RATIONAL MEDICINE
USE

08 APRIL 2025

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/rational-medicine-use-rmu>



WEBINARS COMPLETED IN 2026
UPDATES TO THE STGS & EML

10 February 2026: Epilepsy and Related Conditions
<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/updates-epilepsy-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list>

Unanswered questions during the webinar have been addressed and can be found at the following link:

<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/system/files/2026-04/EPILEP~1.PDF>

Webinar presentations and recordings for the most recent series are available on the Knowledge Hub Webinars tab, on the following link:
<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinars>

Additional Webinars

to follow in 2026.

Watch this
Space!

Annexure A: Guide on how to access the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List and related technical documents on the NHI webpage (<https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/>)



Essential Drugs Programme

- Click here for all information relating to
- PHC STGs & EML
 - AHL STGs & EML
 - Paediatric Hospital level STGs & EML
 - Tertiary & Quaternary level EML

The Essential Drugs Programme (EDP) was established in terms of the National Drug Policy within the Affordable Medicines Directorate (AMD). The aim of the programme is to ensure that affordable, good quality essential medicines are available at all times in adequate amounts, in appropriate dosage

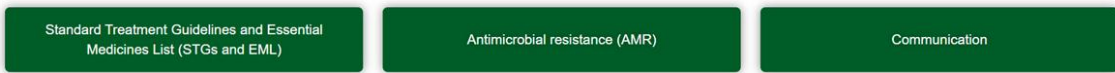


- Click here for
- Circulars
 - NEMLC bulletins
 - Webinars, Presentations & Campaigns

The unit oversees development and implementation of the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STG's) and Essential Medicines List (EML) of South Africa through the ministerially appointed National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC).

The EML refers to the list of medicines deemed to satisfy the priority health care needs of the population.

The STG's provides guidance to health care professionals on the use of medicines which appear on the EML. It consists of a collection of chapters containing disorder groups, background information on the disorder, treatment regimens, as well as other relevant information.



HOME CHIEF DIRECTORATES ▼ FAQ ▼ RESOURCES PHOTO GALLERY EVENTS

Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List (STGs and EML)

South Africa has committed to "achieve Universal Health Coverage including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all", one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations. Therefore, an Essential Medicines List (EML) with supporting Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) has been developed, for different levels of care.

The respective STGs and EML for primary healthcare and hospital levels (adults and paediatrics), and the EML for tertiary level of care are described below. The STGs and EML satisfies the priority needs of the South African population, provided for by the National Drug Policy of 1996 and is based on the WHO EML concept of evidence-medicine principles of comparative efficacy, safety, and affordability. Developed and maintained by the ministerially appointed National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC), Technical Expert Review Sub-Committees of NEMLC and the Essential Drugs Programme from the Affordable Medicines Directorate of the National Department of Health (NDoH).

The rationale for inclusion or exclusion of a medicine to the EML is described in NEMLC evidence reports, medicine reviews and costing analyses.

The therapeutic interchange database lists therapeutic alternatives for medicines listed on the respective EML.

Primary Healthcare

Hospital Level - Paediatrics

Hospital Level - Adults

Hospital Level - Tertiary And Quaternary

Governance & Policies

Click on the relevant tab to access updates to the STGs & EML for each level of care