



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Date: 8 June 2026

Ref: 2026/06/08/EDP1

TOPIC	Contact
Methylphenidate modified release tablets for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Jane Riddin E-mail: jane.riddin@health.gov.za

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR COMMENT ON THE PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINE (STGs) FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ATTENTION DEFICIT HYPERACTIVITY DISORDER (ADHD) WITH MODIFIED RELEASE METHYLPHENIDATE.

The ministerially appointed National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC) invites comment on the draft ADHD STGs recommending the addition of modified release methylphenidate tablets as a treatment option for children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Historically methylphenidate modified-release formulations were not included on the Essential Medicines List (EML), with the recommendation that they would only be considered if the pricing was similar to immediate-acting methylphenidate. With the new HP09-2026SD tender, methylphenidate modified-release formulation has met the reference price and is now considered EML. This formulation was thus added to the ADHD section, with dosing guidance, as well as conversion guidance from immediate to modified release formulation.

Level of care	Chapter
Paediatric Hospital Level	PaedHL Chapter 14: Paediatric Psychiatry; Section 14.3 Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

NOTE: This call for comment is limited to only addition of methylphenidate modified release tablet updates, and any other comment will not be evaluated at this time, unless issues of safety are raised.

The STGs and EML are designated by level of care and are intended to guide clinicians providing care at each level; to promote access to essential medicines to manage common conditions at the respective levels of care.

Kindly circulate the invite for comment to relevant healthcare professionals at your institutions. Constructive comment regarding the identification of major errors, areas of misalignment or where updates are required, will be appreciated. Please include a short motivation to substantiate any comment made.

It would be appreciated if comments can be received by **13 July 2026**.

Comments may be submitted *via* e-mail to:

Jane Riddin E-mail: jane.riddin@health.gov.za

Your support and input are encouraged and appreciated.

Kind regards

PROF M BLOCKMAN
CO-CHAIR: NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC)
DATE: 8 JUNE 2026

DR R DE WAAL
CO-CHAIR: NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC)
DATE: 8 JUNE 2026