



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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NOTICE: 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

Below is a list of the recently published 2026 chapter updates to previous editions of the PHC and AHL 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 5: Skin Conditions (Last updated 8 June 2026)	Key Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 5.10.6.2 Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic symptoms (DRESS) – For awareness, Levetiracetam has been added to list of medicines which may induce DRESS. 		
Chapter 11: HIV and AIDs (Last updated 4 June 2026)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STG 11.11 HIV PrEP – update to interaction between lenacapavir and TB medication. 		
PHC Implementation Slides	Status		
Chapter 5: Skin Conditions	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		
Limited review: Low Osmolar Contrast Media - Therapeutic Interchange	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>AHL</td> <td>✓</td> </tr> </table>	AHL	✓
AHL	✓		

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.

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Kindly share with all healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders.

Queries may be submitted via e-mail to:

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Kind regards

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CHIEF DIRECTOR: HEALTH PRODUCTS PROCUREMENT

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