



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; ADULT AND PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL 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 Primary Healthcare (PHC) and; Adult Hospital Level (AHL) and Paediatric Hospital Level (PaedHL) 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	Key updates
Chapter 4: Cardiovascular Conditions	<u>Statins</u> Guidance updated to reflect statins as awarded on most recent HP09 tender.
Chapter 7: Family Planning	<u>Subdermal Implant</u> Referral criteria not amended following an external comment. <u>Medroxyprogesterone (long-acting), SC, 104 mg, 12 weekly</u> Retained (Review recommendation and review indicator wording updated).
Chapter 8: Kidney and urological disorders	<u>General Measures – Proteinuria Screening</u> The urine Protein Creatinine Ratio (PCR) units used to quantify protein levels been corrected. <u>Acute Pyelonephritis</u> Adults: Acute Pyelonephritis (Patients awaiting transfer) Ceftriaxone, IV/IM added. Children: Acute Pyelonephritis (Patients awaiting transfer) Ceftriaxone IM, 80/kg/ dose amended to a limit of up to 1 g. <u>Renal Calculi</u> Morphine IM/IV dose aligned with PHC Chp 20: Pain. <u>Urinary Tract Infections</u> Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid oral suspension dosing updated to align other indications in PaedHL.

Chapter 19: ENT	Otitis Media, Acute Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid oral suspension dosing updated to align other indications in PaedHL.
Chapter 21: Emergencies and Injuries	Animal & Human Bites Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid oral suspension dosing updated to align other indications in PaedHL.
AHL Chapters with the associated NEMLC reports	Key updates
Chapter 3: Cardiovascular System	Statins Guidance updated to reflect statins as awarded on most recent HP09 tender. Direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs) Rivaroxaban included as an option for anticoagulation in the management of atrial fibrillation (AF).
Chapter 7: Nephrology/Urological Disorders	Peritoneal dialysis Methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta added to the STGs as a treatment alternative.
Paed HL Chapters with the associated NEMLC reports	Key updates
Chapter 8: Infective/Infectious Diseases	Measles Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid oral suspension dosing updated to align other indications in PaedHL and PHC.
Chapter 14: Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Methylphenidate modified release tablet formulation and dosing guidance added.
AHL Appendices	
AHL Appendix VII	Cardiovascular risk assessment.
AHL appendix VIII	Comparative dose tables (<i>new addition</i>).
PHC Appendices	
PHC Appendix III	Cardiovascular risk assessment.
PHC Appendix IV	Standard paediatric dosing tables (<i>previously PHC Chapter 23</i>).
PHC Appendix V	Comparative dose tables (<i>new addition</i>).
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.	
Reviews	Level of Care
Erythropoietin stimulating agents review update	AHL ☒
Review: Subcutaneous (SC) depot medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA-SC) (104 mg) – Review recommendation and review indicator wording updated	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>.

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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.

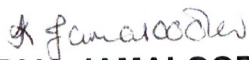
Provinces and Healthcare facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information in consultation with the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees for immediate implementation.

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



MS KHADIJA JAMALOODIEN

CHIEF DIRECTOR: HEALTH PRODUCTS PROCUREMENT

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