

JULY 2026

NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE BULLETIN

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON THE 30 JULY 2026: MEETING OUTCOMES FOR STAKEHOLDER DISSEMINATION

Accessible on the following platform:
National Health Insurance (NHI) Webpage

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
2024 Edition
Updated September 2026**



ADULT HOSPITAL LEVEL

**STGs and EML
2024 Edition
Updated September 2026**



PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL

**STGs and EML
2025-2029 Review Cycle
Updated July 2026**



TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY

**EML
July 2026 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/2026/06/Essential-Medicines-List-Version-2.0-29-May-2026.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/sy896k>. 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:

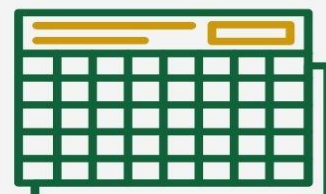
<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinars>

5

EML Spreadsheet

Updated version now available – Version 2.0

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 of **July - September 2026**:

-  **Notice 2026/07/17/EDP/01:** Availability of Paediatric Abacavir/Lamivudine/Dolutegravir (ABC/3TC/DTG) 60mg/30mg/5mg Fixed-Dose Combination Dispersible Tablets (pALD) – Transition Guidance – 31 July 2026
-  **Notice 2026/08/03/EDP001/:** Notice of Request for Comment on the Standard Treatment Guidelines for Asthma and TB Management – 3 August 2026
-  **Notice 2026/08/24/EDP/01:** 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 – 24 August 2026
-  **Notice CMU25/08/2026:** Enalapril Arya 5mg Tablet; 28 Tablets not affected by SAHPRA Batch Recall of Enalapril Arya 10mg Tablet; 28 Tablets – 25 August 2026
-  **Notice 20260831/EDP01:** Erratum to the Phenobarbital/Phenobarbitone 30 mg Tablets – Stock Supply Shortage and the Proposed Therapeutic Alternatives Circular and Latest Stock Update – 01 September 2026
-  **Notice 2026/09/03/EDP/01:** Publication of the National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC) Approved Updates to the Primary Healthcare; Adult Hospital level chapters for the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML): 2025 - 2029 Review Cycle – 04 September 2026
-  **Notice AMD/11 September 2026:** Lorazepam 4mg per ml Injection Recommended Therapeutic Alternatives - 11 September 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:

[Consolidated EML Spreadsheet](#)

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 and will be uploaded once 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:

[Therapeutic Interchange Policy](#)

MENTAL HEALTH CHAPTER MEDICINE UPDATES

- **Reminder:** Recommended therapeutic alternatives for Lorazepam Injection, which is out of stock. Refer to [circular](#).
- For PHC level of care, please note that **olanzapine injection and olanzapine oral dispersible tablets (ODT) are available for acute sedation and tranquilisation in patients presenting with aggressive disruptive disorder.** For full guidance, refer to [PHC Chapter 16: Mental Health Conditions](#). These items are available for procurement as follows:

NSN	Product	Supplier	Contract
222000355	Olanzapine; 10MG Injection; 1'S	Non-Award	N/a
222001562	Olanzapine 5mg Oral Dispersible Tablet; 28/30 tablets	Procure on quotation	
		Aurogen SA (Pty) Ltd	
222001563	Olanzapine 10mg Oral Dispersible Tablet; 28/30 tablets	Aurogen SA (Pty) Ltd	HP09-2026SD

Process for Incorporation of the STGs and EML into the Adult Primary Care Guide

The Adult Primary Care (APC) Guide complements the STGs and EML by focusing on practical implementation at the point of care. The STGs and EML are diagnosis-driven and medicine-focused, intended to guide clinical practice. The APC Guide provides implementation-oriented guidance to provide broader clinical context for the PHC Level. Together, these resources help bridge the gap between policy and practice. Although timelines for update and implementation may differ, ongoing efforts are underway to align the guidance documents. Engagements are underway between the EDP and the Knowledge Translation Unit to align the APC Guide with the STGs/EML, including regular updates and coordinated management of any risks that may lead to inconsistencies in content between these and related Programmatic Guidelines.



TOPIC PRIORITISATION FOR THE 2025 – 2029 REVIEW CYCLE



HOW TOPIC PRIORITISATION WORKS

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 by NEMLC 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).



SUBMIT A TOPIC

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 if you do not receive emails:

[Essential Drugs Programme Mailing List Form](#)

There is also an updated form for submissions, please request this form as the previous medicine motivation form is no longer accepted.



RECORDING AND ASSESSMENT OF COMMENTS

All comments and topic nominations (for STG and medicine reviews) received during call for comment are systematically logged for record purposes. Prioritisation occurs per review cycle and is assessed annually as 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.



MANAGING SUBMISSIONS OUTSIDE THE CALL FOR COMMENT PERIOD

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

CURRENT EVIDENCE WORKING GROUP ACTIVITY

Several broad 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/>. Commencing with scoping and prioritisation of review questions within the broad topic areas is dependent on capacity. Technical work is currently underway on the following topic Areas through the respective ERC Evidence Working Groups.



ENDOCRINE

Scoping document approved Oct 2025



SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs)

Scoping document approved Oct 2025



RESPIRATORY

Scoping document approved Oct 2025



MALARIA

Convened Sep 2026



ONCOLOGY

Scoping document approved Oct 2025



BROAD REPRODUCTIVE

Scoping document approved Nov 2025



EPILEPSY

Convened Aug 2026

Technical work on specific review questions (not full chapter reviews) is currently underway on the **Tuberculosis** and **Cardiovascular** broad topic areas.



NEMLC Decisions and Key Updates

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

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE



PHC Chapter 6: Obstetrics and Gynaecology

✓ **RATIFIED FOR PUBLICATION**

The chapter and corresponding NEMLC report were ratified for publication by NEMLC.



[Access Updated Chapter & NEMLC Report](#)

[PHC Chapter 6: Implementation Slides](#)

Key Updates Include:

- Inclusion of a folic acid caution box in antenatal supplements.
- Calcium and Aspirin for hypertensive disorders in pregnancy was reviewed but *NOT ADDED* for this indication following NEMLC recommendation. Remains for initiation at high-risk clinic following referral.
- Referral Criteria for management of termination of pregnancy at primary health care level: gestation up to 12 weeks and 0 days, has been amended.



PHC Chapter 7: Family Planning

✓ **RATIFIED FOR PUBLICATION**

The updated NEMLC report was ratified for publication by NEMLC.



[Access Updated Chapter & NEMLC Report](#)

Key Updates Include:

- Subdermal Implant: Referral criteria not amended following an external comment.
- Medroxyprogesterone (long-acting), SC, 104 mg, 12 weekly: Retained (Review recommendation and review indicator wording updated).



PHC Chapter 8: Kidney and Urological Disorders



CHAPTER UPDATED

The chapter was updated with several dosing and guidance amendments.



[Access Updated Chapter & NEMLC Report](#)

[PHC Chapter 8: Implementation Slides](#)

Key Updates Include:

- Ceftriaxone IM dose threshold in children with acute pyelonephritis updated.
- Ceftriaxone IV/IM added for adults with acute pyelonephritis.
- Correction to general measures for proteinuria screening.
- Morphine IV/IM dose in renal calculi aligned to PHC Chapter 20: Pain.
- Amoxicillin/clavulanic acid oral dose amended in urinary tract infections.



PHC Chapter 15: Central Nervous System

✓ **RATIFIED FOR PUBLICATION**

The chapter and corresponding NEMLC report were ratified for publication by NEMLC.



[Access Updated Chapter & NEMLC Report](#)

[PHC Chapter 15: Implementation Slides](#)

Key Updates Include:

- Clarification of prescriber level for antiseizure and Schedule 5 medicines.
- Updated IV midazolam dosing for status epilepticus in children < 13 years of age.
- Guidance on management of combination therapy
- Guidance on increasing lamotrigine dose in pregnancy
- Neuropsychiatric adverse effects of levetiracetam.
- Management of patients not controlled on phenytoin
- Cross-titration guidance for lamotrigine.
- General guidance on discontinuation and periodic review of treatment.



Updated Appendices

✓ **RATIFIED FOR PUBLICATION**

New appendices were added to the PHC STGs and some existing appendices were updated and ratified by NEMLC for publication.



[PHC Appendix V](#)



[PHC Appendix IV](#)



[PHC Appendix III](#)

Key Updates Include:

- New Appendix - PHC Appendix V - Comparative Dose tables.
- New Appendix - PHC Appendix IV (Previously Chapter 23): Standard Paediatric Dosing Tables.
- Appendix III – Cardiovascular Risk Assessment.

ADULT HOSPITAL LEVEL (AHL)



AHL Chapter 2: Blood and Blood Forming Organs

RATIFIED FOR PUBLICATION

The chapter, corresponding NEMLC report and Medicine Review were ratified by NEMLC for publication.

[Access Updated Chapter, NEMLC report & Review](#)**Key Updates Include:**

- Venous Thrombo-Embolism (VTE) - Acute treatment:
 - Rivaroxaban, oral: Added for patients assessed as high risk requiring longer term anticoagulation.
 - Updates to the list of contraindications for rivaroxaban when used as treatment of VTE.
- VTE during pregnancy and the puerperium:
 - Rivaroxaban, oral: Added.
 - Dabigatran, oral, added to the therapeutic interchange database.



AHL Chapter 7: Nephrological/Urological Disorders

RATIFIED FOR PUBLICATION

The chapter, corresponding NEMLC report and review were ratified for publication.

[Access Updated Chapter, NEMLC Report & Review](#)**Key Updates Include:**

- Following the updated Erythropoietin Stimulating Agents (ESA) medicine class review, the chapter was updated to include methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta as an EML item for stable patients on peritoneal dialysis.



Updated Appendices

RATIFIED FOR PUBLICATION

Existing appendices in the AHL STGs were updated and ratified by NEMLC for publication.

[AHL Appendix VIII](#)[AHL Appendix VII](#)**Key Updates Include:**

- AHL Appendix VIII - Comparative Dose Tables.
- AHL Appendix VII – Cardiovascular Risk Assessment.

PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL (PAED HL)



PaedHL Chapter 14: Child and Adolescent Psychiatry



RATIFIED FOR PUBLICATION

The chapter and corresponding NEMLC Report were ratified for publication.

[Access Updated Chapter & NEMLC Report](#)Key Updates Include:

- Following external comment, the initiation dose of methylphenidate oral (short-acting) for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) has been amended.
- Methylphenidate oral (modified release) has been added for ADHD,
- For Selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (SSRIs) (e.g. fluoxetine), additional precautions have been updated to include other serotonergic agents.

TERTIARY & QUATERNARY (T & Q) LEVEL

EML Status Change
Tacrolimus Extended-Release Tablets
& Fulvestrant Injection

EML UPDATED

The T&Q EML recommendations and associated reviews were updated.

[Access updated T&Q Recommendations](#)[Tacrolimus Review](#)[Fulvestrant Review](#)Key Updates Include:

- Tacrolimus extended-release formulation and fulvestrant injection was approved by NEMLC for EML status change following the reference price being met in the HP04-2026 Oncology tender.

CROSS CUTTING CHAPTER UPDATES



AHL Chapter 3: Cardiovascular System & PHC Chapter 4: Cardiovascular Conditions

✓ **RATIFIED FOR PUBLICATION**

Both chapters were updated in response to the recent HP09 tender award and ratified for publication.



[Access AHL Chapter 3 & NEMLC Report](#)



[Access PHC Chapter 4 & NEMLC Report](#)

[PHC Chapter 4: Implementation Slides](#)

Key Updates Include:

- Examples of statins for use in primary and secondary prevention of atherosclerosis.
- Use of direct-acting oral anticoagulants (DOACs) in atrial fibrillation.



Standardisation of oral Amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid suspension dosing



CHAPTERS UPDATED AND RATIFIED FOR PUBLICATION

NEMLC ratified the standardisation of the dose, frequency and formulation across indications in PHC and paediatric STGs and the EML.



[Access PHC Chapter 8 & NEMLC Report](#)



[Access PHC Chapter 19 & NEMLC Report](#)



[Access PHC Chapter 21 & NEMLC Report](#)



[Access PHC Appendix IV](#)



[Access PaedHL Chapter 8 & NEMLC Report](#)

Chapters & Sections Updated:

- PHC Chapter 8: Kidney and Urological Disorders.
- PHC Chapter 19: Ear, Nose and Throat Conditions.
- PHC Chapter 21: Emergencies and Injuries.
- PHC Appendix IV (Previously Chapter 23): Standard Paediatric Dosing Tables.
- PaedHL Chapter 8: Infective/Infectious Diseases.
- PaedHL Annexure: Amoxicillin/Clavulanic Dosing Table.

[PHC Chapter 8: Implementation Slides](#)

[PHC Chapter 19: Implementation Slides](#)

[PHC Chapter 21: Implementation Slides](#)

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

Current Editions and Access to the National STGs and EMLs



PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

2024 Edition (2025 – 2029 review cycle) • Updated September 2026

The consolidated PHC STGs and EML for the 2025–2029 review cycle is available for download on the NHI webpage.

[VIEW PHC STGs & EML >](#)



ADULT HOSPITAL LEVEL

2024 Edition (2025 - 2029 review cycle) • Updated September 2026

The consolidated Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML for the 2025–2029 review cycle is available for download on the NHI webpage.

[VIEW ADULT HOSPITAL STGs & EML >](#)



PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL

2025–2029 review cycle • Updated July 2026

The completed Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML is available for download on the NHI webpage.

[VIEW PAEDIATRIC STGs & EML >](#)



TERTIARY & QUATERNARY HOSPITAL LEVEL

Updated July 2026

The Tertiary and Quaternary Hospital Level EML is available for download on the NHI webpage.

[VIEW EML >](#)

Final reviews and supporting technical documents are published on the NHI webpage on the following link: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/>

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>

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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>

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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>

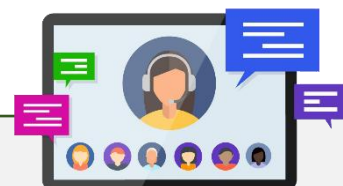
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10

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/>)

NATIONAL HELPLINE: 0800 012 322 | WHATSAPP NUMBER: 0600 123 456 | info@health.gov.za

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Department of Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Essential Drugs Programme

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.

Click here for all information relating to

- PHC STGs & EML
- AHL STGs & EML
- Paediatric Hospital level STGs & EML
- Tertiary & Quaternary level EML

Click here for

- Circulars
- NEMLC bulletins
- Webinars, Presentations & Campaigns

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

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

Communication

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