

Chapter 15: Central Nervous System Conditions



NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



AFFORDABLE MEDICINES DIRECTORATE
ESSENTIAL DRUGS PROGRAMME



PRIMARY HEALTHCARE STANDARD TREATMENT
GUIDELINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST
2025-2029 REVIEW CYCLE



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



How to Use this Implementation Tool



This slide set highlights medicine amendments to this chapter of the PHC STGs & EML



THIS TOOL

- ✓ Highlights medicine amendments
- ✓ Use for quick implementation updates



STGs

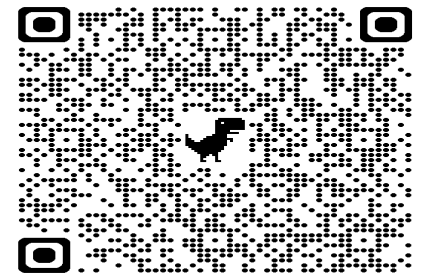
- ✓ Remains the authoritative clinical guidance
- ✓ Always use the most recently published version



EVIDENCE

- ✓ Access the NEMLC report for detailed evidence (including rationale, references and costings) informing decision-making on medicine addition, amendments and deletions

**ACCESS THE LATEST
STGs & EML**
PHC Chapter 15: Central
Nervous System Conditions



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



Disclaimer

This slide set is an implementation tool and should be used alongside the most recently published STG available on the NHI Webpage as detailed above. This information does not supersede or replace the STG itself.



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Medicine Amendments



SECTION 15.5: Status Epilepticus; 15.7 Epilepsy

Medicine/ Management

Decision

Antiseizure Medicines



The prescriber level for all antiseizure medicines in the PHC epilepsy related STGs were reviewed and clarified.

The changes throughout the chapter are summarized as tabulated below:

Schedule 5 medicines	Schedule 5 antiseizure medicines for status epilepticus (i.e., benzodiazepines and phenobarbital) must be prescribed by a medical doctor. If there is no doctor on site, a nurse may administer the medicine in accordance with a telephonic prescription provided by a medical doctor. The medical doctor must provide a written, signed prescription within 72 hours of the telephonic prescription.
Epilepsy	The initial diagnosis of epilepsy must be made by a doctor. Only once seizure control has been achieved and the patient is stable on maintenance therapy should treatment be continued by a nurse. Doctors to take responsibility for the acknowledgment of risk form for use of valproate in girls and women of childbearing potential.
Status epilepticus	Notify the medical doctor on duty to conduct a medical examination, supervise care and prescribe required medicines. If there is no doctor on site, discuss the patient with a medical doctor telephonically. Schedule 5 antiseizure medicines for status epilepticus (i.e., benzodiazepines and phenobarbital) must be prescribed by a medical doctor. If there is no doctor on site, a nurse may administer the medicine in accordance with a telephonic prescription provided by a medical doctor. The medical doctor must provide a written, signed prescription within 72 hours of the telephonic prescription.



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Medicine Amendments



SECTION 15.7: Epilepsy

Medicine/ Management

Decision

Cross Titration Guidance for Lamotrigine



The following wording was added to the dosing tables for lamotrigine as monotherapy or add-on therapy:

Start as add-on therapy, titrate up to a usual maintenance dose, then gradually wean the first medicine in small increments every 1 - 2 weeks. Note: Lamotrigine levels will increase as carbamazepine doses are reduced; lamotrigine levels will decrease as valproate doses are reduced (therefore, may need to increase lamotrigine dosing).



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Medicine Amendments



SECTION 15.8.1: Acute Meningitis

Medicine/ Management

Decision

Tramadol (prescriber level)



As tramadol is a Schedule 5 medicine, the acute meningitis STG was updated stipulating “Dr Prescribed” for tramadol.



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





THANK YOU



For any queries kindly email
SAEDP@health.gov.za



NHI Webpage

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



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

