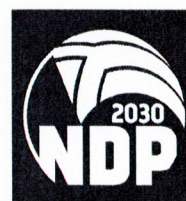




health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Reference: 2026/09/03/EDP/01

NOTICE: PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC) APPROVED UPDATES TO THE PRIMARY HEALTHCARE AND ADULT 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) 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 6: Obstetrics & Gynaecology	• 6.4.1 Antenatal Supplements: Folic acid caution box added • 6.4.2 Hypertensive Disorders in Pregnancy: Initiation of calcium and aspirin (at high-risk clinic following referral) not added • 6.3.1 Management of Termination of Pregnancy at Primary Health Care Level: Gestation Up To 12 Weeks And 0 Days - Referral Criteria amended
Chapter 15: Central Nervous System Conditions	<u>Updates to the Epilepsy Related Standard Treatment Guidelines include:</u> • Prescriber Level - Antiseizure medicines (ASMs) and Schedule 5 medicines • Dose of Midazolam IV updated under the medicine management and supportive care of status epilepticus in children < 13 years of age • Guidance on management of combination therapy • Guidance regarding increasing the dose of lamotrigine in pregnancy • Neuropsychiatric adverse effects of levetiracetam • Guidance on management of patients not controlled on phenytoin • Cross-titration guidance for lamotrigine • General guidance on discontinuation and periodic review of treatment • Internal and external commentator queries and clinical editing queries

AHL Chapters with the associated NEMLC reports	Key updates		
Chapter 2: Blood and blood forming organs	2.8.2 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 2.8.3 VTE during pregnancy and the puerperium: ○ Rivaroxaban, oral: Added ○ Dabigatran, oral, added to the therapeutic interchange database		
PHC Implementation slides			
Chapter 4: Cardiovascular Conditions	As per key-chapter updates		
Chapter 6: Obstetrics & Gynaecology	As per key-chapter updates		
Chapter 8: Kidney and urological disorders	As per key-chapter updates		
Chapter 15: Central Nervous System Conditions	As per key-chapter updates		
Chapter 19: ENT	As per key-chapter updates		
Chapter 21: Emergencies and Injuries	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.			
Reviews	Level of Care		
Benefits and harms of oral rivaroxaban initiated post-delivery in women diagnosed with venous thromboembolism (VTE) during pregnancy and treated during pregnancy with subcutaneous enoxaparin.	<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.

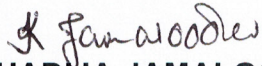
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Kindly share with all healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders.

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

E-mail: SAEDP@health.gov.za

Kind regards



MS KHADIJA JAMALOODIEN

CHIEF DIRECTOR: HEALTH PRODUCTS PROCUREMENT

DATE: 04/09/2026