



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 HOSPITAL 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 (PHL) 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 17: Respiratory	- Chronic asthma management – introduction of inhaled corticosteroid (ICS)/formoterol for maintenance and/or reliever therapy in adults and adolescents 12 years and older. - Chronic asthma management – introduction of ICS/formoterol for maintenance and/or reliever therapy in children aged 6-11 years – <i>maintenance of treatment initiated at paediatric hospital level of care.</i>
Chapter 23: Tuberculosis	Newly developed chapter - Drug sensitive Tuberculosis (DS-TB) and drug resistance TB (DR-TB) STGs updated and aligned to TB programme guidelines. - New STGs added for perinatal TB, and isoniazid mono-resistant TB. - DR-TB STG expanded. 3RH added as a treatment option for TB Prevention Therapy.
AHL Chapters with the associated NEMLC reports	Key updates
Chapter 16: Respiratory	Chronic asthma management – introduction of ICS/formoterol for maintenance and/or reliever therapy in adults and adolescents 12 years and older.
Chapter 27: Tuberculosis	Newly developed chapter - DS-TB and DR-TB STGs updated aligned to TB Programme Guidelines. <i>New STGs added for extrapulmonary TB: empyema, lymphadenitis, abdominal, pericarditis, osteoarticular.</i>

PHL Chapters with the associated NEMLC reports	Key updates
Chapter 15: Respiratory	- Chronic asthma management – introduction of ICS/formoterol for maintenance and/or reliever therapy in children aged 6-11 years – <i>treatment to be initiated at paediatric hospital level of care.</i> <i>New Annexure 2: Asthma monitoring.</i> <i>New Annexure 3: Respiratory devices.</i>
Chapter 10: Tuberculosis	- DS-TB and DR-TB STGs updated and aligned to TB Programme Guidelines. <i>New STGs added for isoniazid monoresistant TB.</i> <i>DR-TB STG expanded.</i> <i>3RH added as a treatment option for TB Prevention Therapy.</i>
PHC implementation slides	To follow
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
ICS/formoterol for chronic asthma management	AHL ✓ PHC ✓ PHL ✓
Economic analysis – ICS/formoterol for chronic asthma management	AHL ✓ PHC ✓
Limited review - corticosteroids for TB pericarditis	AHL ✓ PHL ✓
Limited review - corticosteroids for TB meningitis	AHL ✓ PHL ✓
Limited review - delamanid for DR-TB	AHL ✓ PHC ✓ PHL ✓
Historically accepted use review: Para-aminosalicylic acid (PAS) for DR-TB	AHL ✓ PHC ✓ PHL ✓

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.

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

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