# 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**

## 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

**ONCOLOGY**
Scoping document approved Oct 2025

**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs)**
Scoping document approved Oct 2025

**RESPIRATORY**
Scoping document approved Oct 2025

**BROAD REPRODUCTIVE**
Scoping document approved Nov 2025

**MALARIA**
Convened Sep 2026

**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.