



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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NOTICE: REPUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST (NEMLC) APPROVED UPDATES TO THE ADULT HOSPITAL LEVEL OBSTETRICS STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES (STGs) (2020 TO 2023 REVIEW)

The Adult Hospital Level (AHL): Chapter 6, Obstetrics, was prioritised for review in the 2020 to 2023 AHL review cycle and initially published in January 2023.

In May 2024 NEMLC approved updates to the AHL Obstetrics chapter for republication with the following updates:

- **6.6 HIV IN PREGNANCY**
 - Guidance indicating that switching pregnant women from a TDF+FTC+EFV regimen to a TDF+3TC+DTG regimen requires a VL <50 copies/mL in the last 6 months was deleted from the STG in line with the 2023 National Department of Health Antiretroviral Therapy Clinical Guidelines.
- **6.7 SYPHILIS**
 - To promote safe practices, the oral penicillin desensitisation procedure for penicillin allergic pregnant women with syphilis was clarified in terms of dose, route of administration and the setting for administration. The corresponding section in the AHL "How to Use These Guidelines" for oral and parenteral penicillin desensitisation, referred to in the obstetrics chapter, has also been updated to provide specific instruction on preparation and route of administration. As the AHL STG 2020 to 2023 review cycle draws to a close and all STGs are collated for publication further updates to the AHL "How to Use These Guidelines" are anticipated and will be communicated.

The updated AHL: Chapter 6, Obstetrics chapter with corresponding NEMLC report and evidence-based medicine review can be accessed via the e-library on the Knowledge Hub platform (<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/hospital-level-adults-standard-treatment-guidelines-stgs-and-essential-medicines-list-eml>) and (<https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/hospital-level-adult-medicine-reviews-and-costing-reports-2020-2024>) or National Health Insurance (NHI) webpage (<https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/>).

Please refer to the chapter, corresponding NEMLC report and evidence-based medicine review for detailed explanations of all the medicine, general measures and editorial amendments made to the STGs in the 2020 to 2023 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:
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Kind regards

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