



## NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC) BULLETIN FOR THE MEETING HELD ON 08 DECEMBER 2022: MEETING OUTCOMES FOR PUBLIC DISSEMINATION

### ACCESS TO STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

The following are the latest editions of the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML):

- **Primary Health Care:** STGs and EML 2020 Edition (plus updated chapters ratified by NEMLC)
- **Hospital Level Adult:** STGs and EML 2019 Edition (plus updated chapters ratified by NEMLC)
- **Hospital Level Paediatric:** STGs and EML 2017 Edition (plus updated chapters ratified by NEMLC)
- **Tertiary and Quaternary:** EML December 2022 Edition

The following formats of the STGs and EML are accepted by the National Department of Health (NDoH):

- **Knowledge Hub:**

Primary Health Care (PHC), 2020 (plus updated 2021/2022 chapters ratified by NEMLC)	<a href="https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/primary-healthcare-phc-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-south">https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/primary-healthcare-phc-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-south</a>
Hospital Level – Paediatrics, 2017 (plus updated 2021/2022 chapters ratified by NEMLC)	<a href="https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-paediatrics-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list">https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-paediatrics-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list</a>
Hospital Level – Adults, 2019 (plus updated chapters ratified by NEMLC)	<a href="https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-adults-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-2nd">https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-adults-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-2nd</a>
Tertiary and Quaternary, December 2022	<a href="https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-tertiary-and-quaternary-essential-medicines-list">https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-tertiary-and-quaternary-essential-medicines-list</a>

- **EMGuidance mobile application:** To sign up, click on the link: <http://onelink.to/sy896k>

The most current version of the COVID-19 rapid review reports are available on the **NDoH website** at: <http://www.health.gov.za/covid-19-rapid-reviews/>

### ACCESS TO CIRCULARS FROM THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Circulars that are developed by the Essential Drugs Programme (EDP) are disseminated to EDP stakeholders and uploaded on the Knowledge Hub. The EDP Knowledge Hub section is currently being restructured to contain all EDP related information under one URL. When the URL is live, a summary of what is available together with the link will be shared with all EDP stakeholders.

Please email SAEDP ([SAEDP@health.gov.za](mailto:SAEDP@health.gov.za)) if you would like to be added to the mailing list for circulars and other EDP updates.

The following circulars were disseminated from November to December 2022:

- **Notice:** Accessing the Updated Paediatric Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List – 15 November 2022
- **Notice** of Request for Comment on the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List for Hospital Level, Paediatrics – 08 December 2022
- **Notice** of Request for Comment on the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List for Primary Healthcare and Adult Hospital Level of Care – 08 December 2022
- **Notice:** Availability of New Antiretroviral Products: Paediatric Dolutegravir 10mg, Abacavir/Lamivudine/Dolutegravir 600/300/50mg, and Darunavir/Ritonavir 400/50mg – 12 December 2022

## **PRIMARY HEALTH CARE (PHC) AND ADULT HOSPITAL LEVEL STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST**

- The following have been reviewed and *ratified for publication*, with the respective NEMLC report and relevant medicine review(s):
  - **PHC Chapter 3: Nutrition and Anaemia** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *publication*.
  - **PHC Chapter 4: Cardiovascular Conditions** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *publication*.
  - **PHC Chapter 10: Infections and related conditions** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *publication*.
  - **Adult Hospital Chapter 2: Blood and blood forming organs** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *publication*, following a final review by the committee.
  - **Adult Hospital Chapter 3: Cardiovascular Conditions** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *publication*.
  
- The following have been reviewed and ratified *for external comment*, with the respective NEMLC report and relevant medicine reviews:
  - **PHC Chapter 15: Central Nervous System Conditions** – NEMLC ratified the updated chapter for *external comment*.
  - **PHC Chapter 16: Mental Health Conditions** – NEMLC ratified the updated chapter for *external comment*.
  - **Adult Hospital Chapter 14: Neurological Disorders** – NEMLC ratified the updated chapter for *external comment*.
  - **Adult Hospital Chapter 15: Mental Health Conditions and Substance Misuse** – NEMLC ratified the updated chapter for *external comment*.
  
- The following medicines were reviewed by NEMLC:
  - **Ketamine for the management of refractory status epilepticus** – NEMLC did not recommend the use of ketamine for the management of refractory status epilepticus due to the limited randomized control trial data on the safety and efficacy of use. The review document was ratified for external comment pending editorial amendments.
  - **Thiamine dose for prevention or treatment of Wernicke’s Encephalopathy** – NEMLC supported the thiamine dose amendment of 500mg once a day IM for 3-5 days to the STG for the treatment of Wernicke’s encephalopathy. The evidence summary was ratified for external comment.
  - **Olanzapine for the management of aggressive disruptive behavior** – NEMLC supported the recommendation that olanzapine oro-dispersible tablets or IM injection be considered as an alternative to the combination of haloperidol and promethazine for the management of aggressive disruptive behaviour, following withdrawal of haloperidol injection from the local market. The review was ratified for external comment.
  - **Chlorpromazine/olanzapine oral for schizophrenia** – NEMLC supported the proposal to alter the prescribing level of olanzapine in schizophrenia to doctor initiated and to remove chlorpromazine from the treatment algorithm. However, chlorpromazine is to remain on national tender to allow for the supply adjustment of olanzapine. The evidence summary was ratified for external comment.

Comments on the Adult Hospital level and Primary Health Care chapters are due by the **06 February 2023** and may be submitted *via* e-mail to:

Dr Janine Jugathpal

E-mail: [janine.jugathpal@health.gov.za](mailto:janine.jugathpal@health.gov.za)

(Documents for comment accessible at: <https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/notice-comment-phcadult-hospital-level-stgs-and-eml>)

## **PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST**

- The following has been reviewed and *ratified for publication*, with the respective NEMLC report:
  - **Paediatric Hospital Chapter 1: Emergencies and Trauma** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for clinical editing and *publication*.
  - **Paediatric Hospital Chapter 2: Alimentary Tract** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for clinical editing and *publication*.
  - **Paediatric Hospital Chapter 3: Blood and Blood-Forming Organs** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for clinical editing and *publication*.
  - **Paediatric Hospital Chapter 8: Infective/Infectious Diseases** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for clinical editing and *publication*.
  - **Paediatric Hospital Chapter 20: Pain Control** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for clinical editing and *publication*.
  - **Paediatric Hospital Chapter 22: Intensive Care and Anaesthetics** – The Intensive Care chapter has been separated from the anaesthetics chapter, as previously communicated. NEMLC ratified the Intensive Care chapter for clinical editing and *publication*.
  
- Following clinical editing with further medicine amendments, the **Paediatric Hospital Chapter 4: Cardiovascular System and Paediatric Hospital Chapter 19: Prematurity and Neonatal Conditions** were ratified, and the chapters will be prepared for final publication.
  
- The following chapter has been reviewed and ratified *for external comment*, with the respective NEMLC report:
  - **Paediatric Hospital Chapter 21: Palliative Care** – NEMLC ratified the updated chapter for *external comment*.

Comments on the Paediatric Hospital chapters are due by the **16 January 2023** and may be submitted *via* e-mail to:

Dr Jane Riddin

E-mail: [jane.riddin@health.gov.za](mailto:jane.riddin@health.gov.za)

(Documents for comment accessible at: <https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/notice-comment-phcadult-hospital-level-stgs-and-eml>)

## **TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY LEVEL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST (TQEML)**

- The following medicines have been reviewed and *ratified for publication*, with the respective NEMLC report:
  - **Mirtazapine for Major Depressive Disorders:**
    - The medicine review on Mirtazapine in major depressive disorders for specific population groups was presented to NEMLC for ratification.
    - NEMLC did not recommend the inclusion of Mirtazapine on to the TQEML for this specific indication and the medicine review was ratified for publication.
  
  - **Capecitabine for Metastatic Breast Cancer in Anthracycline and Taxane Resistant Disease:**
    - The report on the review update of Capecitabine in metastatic breast cancer for anthracycline and taxane resistant disease was presented to NEMLC for ratification.
    - NEMLC recommended the inclusion of Capecitabine on to the TQEML for this specific indication and the medicine review was ratified for publication.
  
  - **Lenalidomide for Multiple Myeloma:**
    - Following the medicine review amendments requested by NEMLC after the 20 October 2022 meeting, NEMLC recommended that lenalidomide be added to the TQEML in place of thalidomide for this indication (Thalidomide will still be available until contract HP04-2022 comes to an end).

## **OTHER**

- **Primary Healthcare Essential Laboratory List (ELL)**
  - A summary of the amendments made to the ELL for primary care was presented to NEMLC.
  - NEMLC ratified the updates to the ELL, for submission to the NDoH PHC directorate.

## **COVID-19 RAPID REVIEWS**

No COVID-19 rapid reviews have been conducted from November to December 2022.