



NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC) BULLETIN

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 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
- **Hospital Level Paediatric:** STGs and EML 2017 Edition (plus updated chapters ratified by NEMLC)
- **Tertiary and Quaternary:** EML July 2021 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 <i>(plus updated 2021 chapters ratified by NEMLC)</i>	https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/primary-healthcare-phc-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-south
Hospital Level – Paediatrics, 2017 <i>(plus updated 2022 chapters ratified by NEMLC)</i>	https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-paediatrics-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list
Hospital Level – Adults, 2019	https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-adults-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-2nd
Tertiary and Quaternary, June 2022	https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-tertiary-and-quaternary-essential-medicines-list

- **Ideal Clinic:** PHC STGs and EML, 2020 edition has also been uploaded to this platform (click the documents tab) - <https://www.idealhealthfacility.org.za/>
- **EMGuidance mobile application:** To sign up, click on the link: <http://onelink.to/sy896k>

ACCESS TO CIRCULARS FROM THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Circulars that are developed by the Essential Drugs Programme are uploaded on the NDoH website and Knowledge Hub. The website is currently being restructured and documents will be available shortly.

The following circulars were disseminated from April to June 2022:

- Notice: Doxazosin for Management of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia – 4 April 2022
- Notice: Erratum to the Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML, 5th edition (2019) – 13 April 2022
- Notice of Request for Comment on the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List for Primary Healthcare and Adult Hospital Level of Care – 23 June 2022
- Notice of Request for Comment on the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List for Paediatric Hospital Level of Care – 30 June 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):
 - **HIV and AIDS**
 - **Tenofovir as second-line antiretroviral treatment (ART)** – NEMLC ratified the evidence summary for *publication*.
 - **Dapivirine vaginal ring as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)** – NEMLC ratified the medicine review for *publication*, with amendments.
 - **Carbotegravir long-acting as PrEP** – NEMLC ratified the medicine review for *publication*.
 - **Liposomal Amphotericin B for cryptococcal meningitis** – NEMLC ratified the medicine review for *publication*, with amendments.
 - **Tenofovir alafenamide** – NEMLC ratified the medicine review for *publication*
 - **Adult Hospital Level Chapter 10: HIV and AIDS** – NEMLC accepted the final Adult Hospital Level HIV chapter, as amended and recommended that the chapter with supporting NEMLC report, reviews and costing analyses be prepared for publication. It was reported that equitable access of flucytosine for management of cryptococcal meningitis was dependant on the publication of the final NEMLC-approved chapter in the public domain.
 - **PHC Chapter 11: HIV And AIDS** – NEMLC ratified the amended chapter for *publication*.
Publication of the updated chapters will be delayed to allow for co-ordination between other national guideline updates as well as Paediatric Hospital Level STG updates.
 - **PHC Chapter 7: Family Planning** - NEMLC ratified the chapter for *publication*.
 - **PHC Chapter 10: Infections and Related Conditions** - NEMLC ratified the chapter for *publication*.
- The following review has been ratified by the NEMLC:
 - **TB preventative therapy** – NEMLC ratified the budget impact model, with amendments.
- The following have been reviewed and ratified for *external comment*, with the respective NEMLC report and relevant medicine review(s):
 - **Kidney Conditions**
 - **Erythropoietin Stimulating Agents for anaemia of Chronic Kidney Disease** – NEMLC ratified the medicine review for *external comment*
 - **Adult Hospital Level Chapter 7: Nephrology** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *external comment*.
 - **PHC Chapter 8: Kidney and Urological Disorders** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *external comment*.
 - **Emergencies and Injuries**
 - **Morphine for distress in pulmonary oedema** – NEMLC ratified the medicine review for *external comment*, with amendments.
 - **Burns dressings** – NEMLC ratified the medicine review for *external comment*.
 - **PHC Chapter 21: Emergencies and Injuries** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *external comment*, with amendments.
 - **Adult Hospital Chapter 19: Poisoning** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *external comment*, with amendments.

Comments are due by the 01 August 2022 and may be submitted *via* e-mail to:

Dr Janine Jugathpal

E-mail: 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 have been reviewed and ratified for publication, with the respective NEMLC report and appropriate medicine review(s):

For publication

- **Chapter 22: Anaesthetics** - NEMLC ratified the chapter for clinical editing and publication.
 - **Clonidine Review** - NEMLC ratified the medicine review for publication.
 - **Paracetamol IV Review** - NEMLC ratified the medicine review for publication. Provinces to ensure that usage of this item is monitored to prevent indication creep.
- **Chapter 5: Dermatology** - NEMLC ratified the chapter for clinical editing and publication.
- **HIV – Dolutegravir < 20 kg review** - NEMLC ratified the chapter for publication.

For external comment

- **Chapter 12: Rheumatology and Vasculitides** - NEMLC ratified the chapter for external comment
- **Chapter 19: Prematurity and Neonatal conditions** - NEMLC ratified the chapter for external stakeholder comment.
- Comments are due by the 1 August 2022 and may be submitted *via* e-mail to:
Dr Jane Riddin
E-mail: 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 ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

- The following medicine reviews have been reviewed by the NEMLC:
 - **Rituximab for indolent lymphomas –**
 - It was recommended that rituximab not be added onto the EML for indolent lymphomas at the current contract price. Inclusion of this agent can be reconsidered when cost reductions of between 66% and 80% of the contract price (July 2022) is achieved.
 - NEMLC ratified the medicine review for publication.
 - **Historically Accepted Use**
 - **Cabergoline – Prolactinomas:** Recommended for inclusion for the treatment of prolactinoma for patients intolerant or refractory to bromocriptine (initiation by a specialist).
 - **Acitretin – Psoriasis:** Recommended for inclusion for the management of patients with severe localized or generalized pustular psoriasis, or severe psoriasis not responding to conventional therapy under the care of a dermatologist.
 - **Dithranol – Psoriasis:** Not recommended for inclusion on the Tertiary and Quaternary Essential Medicines List for management of psoriasis, as it is currently not registered in South Africa.

COVID-19 RAPID REVIEWS

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/>

The following rapid reviews have been conducted from April to June 2022 and published in the public domain:

- Rapid review of tocilizumab – 6 April
- Rapid review of IV immunoglobulin – 6 May 2022
- Rapid review of baricitinib – 6 May 2022
- Rapid review of BCG prophylaxis – 20 May 2022
- Rapid review of remdesivir – 25 May 2022
- Rapid review of fluvoxamine – 27 May 2022
- Rapid review of inhaled corticosteroids – 6 June
- Rapid review of rivaroxaban – 6 June 2022

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to join

