

## NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC) BULLETIN FOR THE MEETING HELD ON 25 AUGUST 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 June 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 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, June 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>

- **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>

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 are uploaded on the NDoH website and Knowledge Hub. The website is currently being restructured and documents will be available shortly. 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 July to August 2022:

- Notice: Interferon Beta-1a – 05 July 2022
- Notice: Accessing the Updated Paediatric Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List – 12 July 2022
- Notice: Accessing the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List – 22 July 2022
- Notice: Accessing the Latest Chapters and Supporting Technical Documents of the Primary Healthcare and Adult Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List – 26 August 2022
- Notice: Use of Levonorgestrel for Emergency Contraception – 29 August 2022

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

- The following has been reviewed and *ratified for publication*, with the respective NEMLC report:
  - **PHC Chapter 13: Immunisation** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *publication*, with amendments.
- The following have been reviewed with the respective NEMLC report and relevant medicine review(s):
  - **PHC Chapter 5: Skin Conditions** – NEMLC recommended amendments to the NEMLC report and supporting evidence prior to ratification.
  - **Adult Hospital Chapter 4: Dermatology** – NEMLC recommended amendments to the NEMLC report and supporting evidence prior to ratification.
  - **Adult Hospital Chapter 9: Systemic and Healthcare-Associated Infections** – NEMLC recommended editorial amendments prior to publication for external comment.
  - **Adult Hospital Chapter 15: Mental Health – Opioid Dependence** – NEMLC recommended amendments to the treatment guidelines applicable for use in approved pilot sites only.

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

- The following have been reviewed and *published for external comment*, with the respective NEMLC report:
  - **Chapter 2: Alimentary Tract** - NEMLC accepted the updated chapter and recommended the chapter be circulated for *external comment*.
  - **Chapter 8: Infectious Diseases** - NEMLC accepted the updated chapter and recommended the chapter be circulated for *external comment*.
  - **Chapter 9: HIV** - NEMLC previously ratified this chapter, however the use of dolutegravir has been approved for use in the weight band 3 to 20 kg, and thus the chapter was updated accordingly.

Comments are due by the 30 September 2022 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>)

## **COVID-19 RAPID REVIEWS**

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

- Rapid review of antiplatelets as treatment for COVID-19 – 4 July 2022
- Rapid review of BNT162b2 (Pfizer) vaccine in Children 5 to 11 years old – 15 August 2022