



NATIONAL ESSENTIAL  
MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE

## NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC) BULLETIN

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON THE 28 NOVEMBER 2024: MEETING OUTCOMES FOR STAKEHOLDER DISSEMINATION

Accessible on the following platforms:

National Department of Health Website, National Health Insurance (NHI) Webpage: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-comm/>  
Knowledge Hub: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/e-library/national-essential-medicines-list-committee-nemlc-2021-2024>

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

### PRIMARY HEALTHCARE



STGs and EML 2020 Edition  
(plus individual chapters  
for the 2024 edition  
ratified by NEMLC)

### ADULT HOSPITAL LEVEL



STGs and EML 2019 Edition  
(plus individual chapters  
for the 2024 edition  
ratified by NEMLC)

### PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL



STGs and EML 2023 Edition  
updated October 2024

### TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY




EML November 2024  
Edition





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

*The Essential Drugs Programme (EDP) is in the process of moving all the STGs and related technical documents to the National Department of Health's (NDoH) website, National Health Insurance (NHI) webpage. Communication will be shared as the transition progresses.*

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

 **NHI webpage (latest version of the STGs and EML):** The STGs and EML can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/>. Click on the relevant tab to access the STGs, EMLs and technical documents for each Level of Care

 **Knowledge Hub eLibrary** on the link: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/e-library>. Refer to Annexure A for guidance on how to access STGs and EML and related technical documents on the Knowledge Hub, and a table with keywords to be used.

 **EMGuidance mobile application:** To sign up, use the following link: <http://onelink.to/sy896k>.

Please note there may be a lag time for any updated documents published on the NHI webpage and the Knowledge Hub platform to be transcribed onto the EMGuidance platform.

 For webinar recordings aimed at strengthening implementation of the STGs and EML: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinars>.

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

Take  
Note



ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ESSENTIAL DRUGS PROGRAM (EDP) CIRCULARS

Circulars that are developed by the EDP are disseminated to EDP stakeholders and uploaded on the Affordable Medicines webpage on the National Health Insurance (NHI) webpage and the Knowledge Hub eLibrary. These circulars can be accessed on the following links:

NHI webpage: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-comm/>

Knowledge Hub eLibrary: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/affordable-medicines-circulars-2022-2024>

The following circulars were disseminated for the period November - December 2024:

- i** **Notice 2024/12/19/EDP/01:** Publication of the National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC) approved Updates to the Primary Healthcare (PHC) And Adult Hospital Level (AHL) Chapters for the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) – 2024 Editions (19 December 2024)
- i** **Notice EDP09122024/01:** Criteria for Emicizumab Use as Routine Prophylaxis in the Management of Patients with Haemophilia A with Factor VIII Inhibitors (18 December 2024)
- i** **Notice 2024/12/12/EDP/01:** Notice of Request for Comment on the National Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines Lists for all Levels of Care to Guide Prioritisation for the 2025 National Essential Medicines List Committee Review Phase (12 December 2024)
- i** **Notice 2024/12/02/EDP/01:** Notice of Request for Comment on the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List for Primary Healthcare – Chapter 7: Family Planning (02 December 2024)
- i** **Notice 2024/11/18/EDP01:** Publication of the National Essential Medicines List (NEMLC) approved updates to the Primary Healthcare and Adult Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) - 2024 editions (21 November 2024). The circular outlines updates to the following chapters in the PHC and AHL STGs and EML for the 2024 edition:

  - o PHC Chapter 5: Skin Conditions
  - o PHC Chapter 20: Pain
  - o PHC Chapter 22: Medicines Used in Palliative Care
  - o AHL Chapter 4: Dermatology
  - o AHL Chapter 24: Medicines Used in Palliative Care
  - o AHL Chapter 25: Pain
- i** The circular outlines the publication of the following medicine reviews/documents:

  - o Cephalexin for Staphylococcus aureus skin infections
  - o Pre-amble: PHC 2024 Edition – How to use these guidelines
  - o Pre-amble: AHL 2024 Edition – How to use these guidelines



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



**NEMLC'S SHORT-TERM REVIEW PRIORITIES**

The following topics have been identified as **short-term review priorities** of NEMLC for the period ending 07 April 2025:

TOPIC/CONDITION	LEVEL OF CARE
Asthma	All levels of care
Epilepsy	All levels of care
Glaucoma	All levels of care
Family Planning (including DMPA SC)	Primary Healthcare
PrEP injectable	Primary Healthcare
Oral blood glucose lowering drugs	All levels of care
Tuberculosis prophylaxis	All levels of care



These topics are subject to change based on the operational and strategic priorities of NEMLC. The review process is an ongoing process in which NEMLC takes note of comments and concerns raised by stakeholders. This input, together with other criteria, are considered during the prioritisation process. Any safety issues raised are dealt with urgently.



**OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

The following items were reviewed by NEMLC:

- **Dolutegravir (DTG) and Metformin Interaction** – A literature review was undertaken of the PHC and Adult Hospital level guidance detailing the interaction between metformin and DTG in response to new local research shared by external stakeholders. Based on the review, updates to the PHC Chapter 11: HIV and AH Chapter 10: HIV were made to the dosing guidance for metformin when co-administered with DTG. More specifically:

**Metformin initiation:**

- **Initiate metformin at a low dose (500-1000mg total daily dose), titrating up as needed. Do not exceed 2g daily.**

**DTG initiation:**

- **If patient stabilised on metformin dose ≤2g daily, retain metformin dose and monitor for side effects.**
- **If patient stabilised on >2g daily, reduce dose of metformin to ≤2g daily and monitor.**

**Patients with renal impairment:**

- **Close monitoring of renal function required. Do not co-prescribe if eGFR <30mL/min.**
- **See Appendix II for further guidance on patients with renal impairment.**

*The latest versions of the chapters and supporting NEMLC reports (version 2.1), are available on the NHI webpage.*



PRIMARY HEALTHCARE AND ADULT HOSPITAL LEVEL STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

The following items were reviewed by NEMLC:

- **BCG Vaccine Update** – Following the updated national guidance on BCG vaccination in children by the National Advisory Group on Immunisation (NAGI), NEMLC has adopted this guidance and the PHC Chapter 13: Immunisation will be updated with the relevant amendments. The rationale for the update is to improve coverage and minimise missed BCG vaccination opportunities, as TB exposure can occur very early in life.
- **Cryptococcal Disease Algorithm** – An erratum to the algorithm on cryptococcal disease has been issued in the AH Chapter 10: HIV. The amended chapter (version 2.1) has been published on the Knowledge Hub and NHI webpages.
- **PHC Chapter 7: Family Planning** – The currently published Family Planning chapter has been circulated for external comment (closing date: 21 December 2024). The chapter has been identified for review as part of the NEMLC short-term priority objectives to be achieved by March 2025. NEMLC is in the process of finalising the updated DMPA SC technical review and a final recommendation will be communicated in due course.

DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED SINCE LAST NEMLC BULLETIN

➤ **PHC Level**

**Chapters:**

- PHC Chapter 4: Cardiovascular Conditions
- PHC Chapter 5: Skin Conditions
- PHC Chapter 11: HIV (Version 2.1)
- PHC Chapter 20: Pain
- PHC Chapter 22: Medicines used in Palliative Care

**Appendices:**

- How to use these guidelines
- Appendix III: Cardiovascular Risk Assessment

➤ **AH Level**

**Chapters:**

- AH Chapter 3: Cardiovascular System
- AH Chapter 4: Dermatology
- AH Chapter 10: HIV (Version 2.1)
- AH Chapter 24: Medicines used in Palliative Care
- AH Chapter 25: Pain

**Appendices:**

- How to use these Guidelines (Version 2)
- Appendix VII: Cardiovascular Risk Assessment

➤ **Medicine Reviews: PHC/AHL**

- Aspirin for primary cardiovascular disease prevention (PHC/AHL)
- Direct Oral Anticoagulants for chronic non-valvular atrial fibrillation (AHL)
- Indapamide versus HCTZ as first line for uncomplicated primary hypertension v7.1 (PHC/AHL)
- Oxygen therapy for ST elevated myocardial infarction (PHC/AHL)
- Rivaroxaban for stroke prevention in atrial fibrillation - Health Economics Report Update v3.0 (AHL)
- Olanzapine injection for nausea and vomiting in palliative care (AHL)
- Cephalexin for *S.aureus* skin infections (PHC/AHL)



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

The complete Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML, 2023 edition, updated October 2024 is available for download on the NHI webpage on the following link: [https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Paediatric-STGs-and-EML-2023-Edition\\_Updated-October-2024.pdf](https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Paediatric-STGs-and-EML-2023-Edition_Updated-October-2024.pdf) or the Knowledge Hub on: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/hospital-level-paediatric-standard-treatment-guidelines-stgs-and-essential-medicines-list>

- Errata to the Paediatric STGs and EML 2023 edition have been published and can be accessed on: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/> and <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/hospital-level-paediatric-standard-treatment-guidelines-stgs-and-essential-medicines-list>
  - October 2024
  - July 2024
  - December 2023
- Presentations from the Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML 2023 edition launch webinar series (held in September 2023) can be found on the Knowledge Hub Webinars tab at the following link: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinars>.



### TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY HOSPITAL LEVEL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

The following items were reviewed by NEMLC:

- **Dasatinib for second-line management of chronic myeloid leukemia (CML)** – The medicine review for dasatinib for second-line management of CML was presented to the Committee. NEMLC recommended that both nilotinib and dasatinib be made available in CML for patients who are refractory or intolerant to imatinib. The review has been published on the NHI and Knowledge Hub webpages.



- **Call for Comment** on the National Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines Lists for all Levels of Care to Guide Prioritisation for the 2025 National Essential Medicines List Committee Review Phase – **Closing date: 07 February 2025**
- **Call for Comment** on the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List for Primary Healthcare – **Closing date: 21 December 2024**
- The Terms of Office of the Expert Review Committees have now concluded and the NEMLC Term of Office ends in April 2025. Look out for the **Call for Applications** for next Committees will be circulated by the **end of January 2025**.



**WEBINAR SERIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STGS AND EML**

Take note of the advertisements shared *via* the Knowledge Hub mailing list, EDP stakeholder mailing list and through the NDoH Facebook page, for the series of webinars to be held monthly showcasing the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) process applied to the review of the STGs and EML and the updated chapters, medicine reviews and costings that have been published as part of the 2020-2024 review cycle of the PHC and Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML.

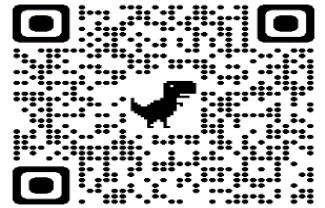
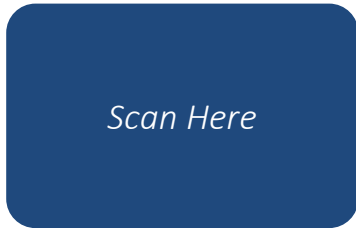
Webinars presentations and recordings are available on the Knowledge Hub platform:

Date	Webinar Title	Link
25 June 2024	<u>Webinar 1</u> : Health Technology Assessment	<a href="https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/national-department-health-standard-treatment-guidelines-essential-medicines-list-session-1">https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/national-department-health-standard-treatment-guidelines-essential-medicines-list-session-1</a>
16 July 2024	<u>Webinar 2</u> : Mental Health Conditions – updates to the STGs and EML	<a href="https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/mental-health-updates-ndoh-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicine-list">https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/mental-health-updates-ndoh-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicine-list</a>
30 July 2024	<u>Webinar 3</u> : Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Family Planning STGs and EML	<a href="https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/obstetrics-and-gynaecology-and-family-planning-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential">https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/obstetrics-and-gynaecology-and-family-planning-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential</a>
13 August 2024	<u>Webinar 4</u> : Adult Critical Care – introduction to new STGs and EML	<a href="https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/adult-critical-care-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list">https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/adult-critical-care-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list</a>
27 August 2024	<u>Webinar 5</u> : Infections STGs and EML, and Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Report	<a href="https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/infections-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-and-antimicrobial">https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/infections-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-and-antimicrobial</a>
17 September 2024	<u>Webinar 6</u> : Emergencies and Injuries and Poisonings – Updates to the STGs and EML	<a href="https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/emergencies-injuries-and-poisonings-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines">https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/emergencies-injuries-and-poisonings-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines</a>
29 October 2024	<u>Webinar 7</u> : HIV and AIDS – Updates to the STGs and EML	<a href="https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/hiv-and-aids-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list">https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/hiv-and-aids-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list</a>
26 November 2024	<u>Webinar 8</u> : Blood and Blood Forming Organs, Haemophilia – Updates to STGs and EML	<a href="#">Blood and Blood Forming Organs and Haemophilia Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List   Department of Health Knowledge Hub</a>

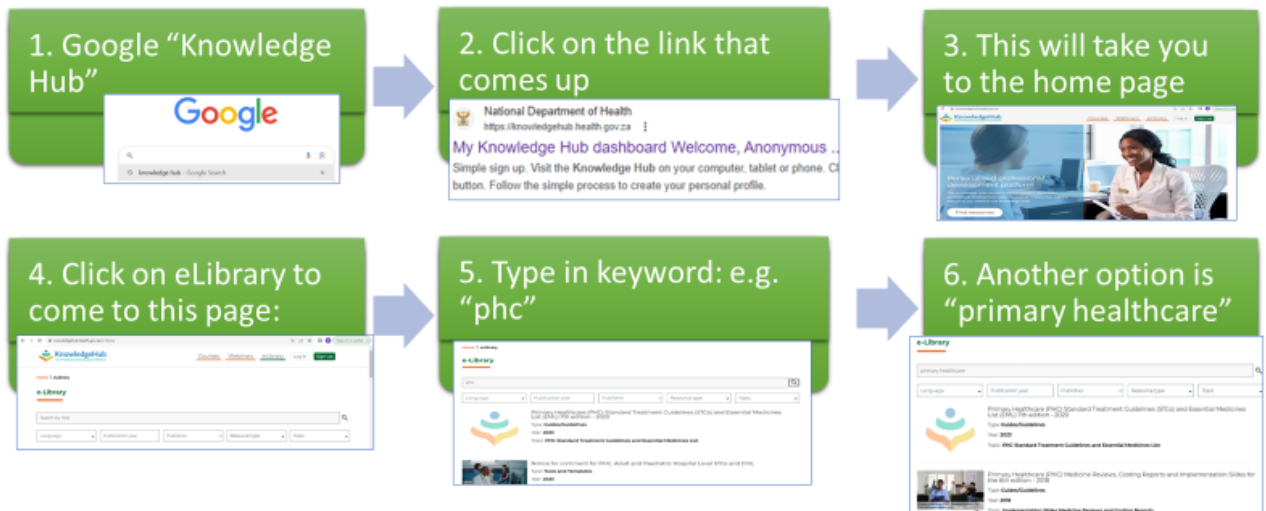


There will be more webinars to follow in 2025  
Watch this space!

Annexure A : Guide on how to access the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List and related technical documents on Knowledge Hub

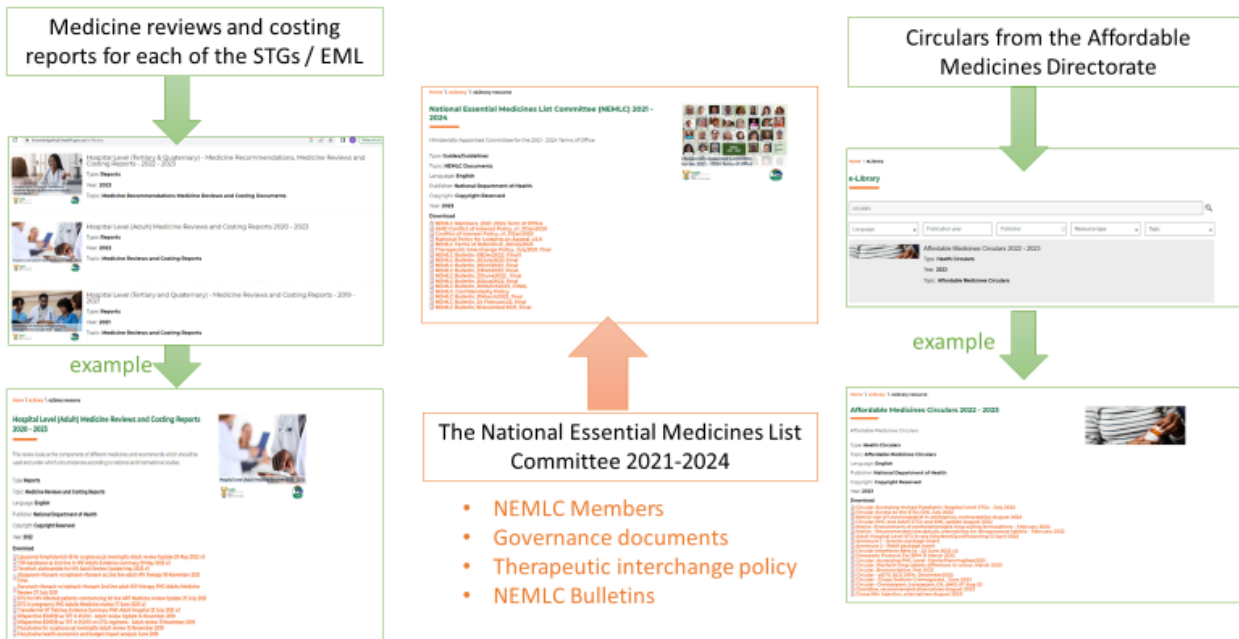


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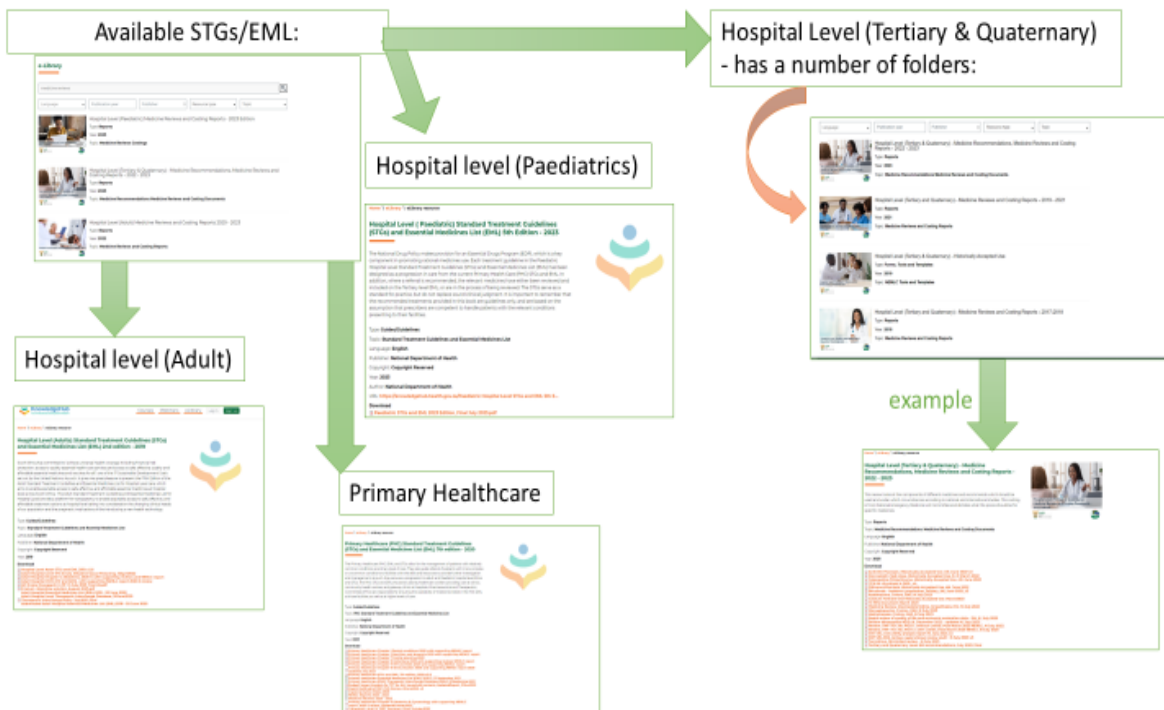


Other keywords that you can use:  
 'hospital level'; 'paediatric'; 'adult'; 'tertiary';  
 'notice for comment'

### What else is available on KnowledgeHub?



### How the STGs/EML are presented on KnowledgeHub





KNOWLEDGE HUB RESOURCE	KEYWORDS TO USE IN THE KNOWLEDGE HUB SEARCH BAR	NOTES: <i>Folder contents continually updated</i>
<b>Primary Healthcare (PHC) Level, 2020</b> <i>(plus updated Chapters for the 2020-4 edition ratified by NEMLC, Medicine Reviews, Costing Reports and Implementation Slides)</i>	Primary Healthcare, PHC, Standard Treatment Guidelines, STGs, Essential Medicines List, EML	Contains complete PDF of 2020 edition, new chapters already reviewed and ratified for the 2024 edition (with supporting NEMLC reports) which will replace chapters from the 2020 edition and form part of the 2024 edition, medicine reviews, costing reports and implementation slides.
<b>Hospital Level – Paediatrics, 2023_updated October 2024</b> <i>(plus Errata)</i>	Hospital Level, Hospital, Paediatric, Standard Treatment Guidelines, STGs, Essential Medicines List, EML, Medicine Reviews, Costing Reports	Complete PDF of the 2023 edition (updated 2024), updated chapters, individual chapters for the 2023 edition and errata Medicine reviews and costing reports in a separate folder
<b>Hospital Level – Adults, 2019</b> <i>(plus updated Chapters for the 2020-4 edition ratified by NEMLC, Errata, Medicine Reviews and Costing Reports)</i>	Hospital Level, Hospital, Adult, Standard Treatment Guidelines, STGs, Essential Medicines List, EML, Medicine Reviews, Costing Reports	Contains complete PDF of the 2019 edition, new chapters (with supporting NEMLC reports) already reviewed and ratified for the 2024 edition replacing chapters from the 2020 edition and form part of the 2024 edition, notices of errata from the 2019 edition, of the STGs and EML
<b>Tertiary and Quaternary Level, November 2024</b>	Hospital Level, Hospital, Tertiary & Quaternary, Tertiary, Quaternary, Medicine Recommendations, Medicine Reviews, Costing Reports	<b>2022 – 2024</b> medicine reviews, costing reports, latest Tertiary and Quaternary EML <b>2017 – 2021</b> medicine reviews and costing documents in separate folders but same key words
<b>Medicine Reviews and Costing Reports</b>	Medicine reviews, reviews, costing reports, costing	Different folders for Paediatrics, Adult and Tertiary/Quaternary  Contains all medicine reviews and costing reports per level of care, except PHC level
<b>Notice for Comment</b>	Notice for Comment, Notice Comment, PHC, Adult, Paediatric, Hospital Level, STGs, EML	Current notices for all levels of care – these notices are removed once comment period is closed
<b>National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC)</b>	NEMLC, National Essential, Essential Medicines, Committee	Member photos with short biographies, policies, NEMLC terms of reference, NEMLC bulletins
<b>Affordable Medicines Circulars</b>	Affordable Medicines Circulars, Affordable Medicines, Circulars	2022 - 2024 circulars
<b>Health Technology Assessment (HTA)</b>	Health Technology Assessment, Health Technology, HTA, Essential Medicines List	HTA Methods Guide, HTA Methods Guide Templates