



NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC) BULLETIN FOR THE MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2023: 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 chapters ratified by NEMLC)	https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/primary-healthcare-phc-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-south
Hospital Level – Paediatrics, 2017 (plus updated chapters ratified by NEMLC)	https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-paediatrics-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list
Hospital Level – Adults, 2019 (plus updated chapters ratified by NEMLC)	https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-adults-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-2nd
Tertiary and Quaternary, December 2022	https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/hospital-level-tertiary-and-quaternary-essential-medicines-list

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

The most current versions 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) if you would like to be added to the mailing list for circulars and other EDP updates.

The following circulars/documents were disseminated from January to March 2023:

- Tertiary and Quaternary Level Essential Medicines List – December 2022
- **Circulars:** PHC and Adult STGs and EML updates – 20 January 2023; 14 March 2023
- **Notice:** Minoxidil Out of Stock – 07 February 2023
- **Notice:** Recommended Therapeutic Alternative for Bromocriptine Tablets – 17 February 2023
- **Notice for Comment:** Call for External Comment for PHC-Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML Palliative Care chapters – 14 March 2023

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

- The following chapters have been reviewed and *ratified for publication*, with the respective NEMLC report and relevant medicine review(s):
 - PHC Chapter 13: Immunisations** – Following updates in response to comments from the clinical editorial reviewer, NEMLC ratified the chapter for *publication*. The updated chapter with supporting NEMLC report has been uploaded on the Knowledge Hub, url: <https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/primary-healthcare-phc-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-south>
 - **Adult Hospital Chapter 9: Systemic and healthcare associated infections** – 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 20: Pain** – NEMLC ratified the updated chapter for *external comment*, following editorial amendments by the Expert Review Committee (ERC).
 - **PHC Chapter 22: Medicines used in palliative care** – NEMLC ratified the updated chapter for *external comment*.
 - **Adult Hospital Chapter 24: Medicines for palliative care** – NEMLC ratified the updated chapter and review for *external comment*.
 - **Adult Hospital Chapter 26: Pain** – NEMLC ratified the updated chapter for *external comment*, following editorial amendments by the ERC.
- The following medicines were reviewed by NEMLC:
 - o **Olanzapine for refractory nausea and vomiting** – NEMLC recommended that oral, oro-dispersible & IM olanzapine be used in adult palliative care patients with nausea and vomiting not responding to metoclopramide, as a replacement to haloperidol. The review was ratified for *external comment*.
 - o **Hyaluronidase for cataract surgery** – An evidence review on the use of hyaluronidase for cataract surgery was presented to NEMLC. The Committee suggested a conditional recommendation for the use of hyaluronidase as an adjunct to anaesthesia for peri-orbital block. Hyaluronidase will be added to the list of medicines included in the STG for use during eye surgery.
 - o **Cabotegravir Long Acting (CAB-LA) as pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV** – The budget impact analysis (BIA) and cost-effective analysis on the use of CAB-LA for pre-exposure prophylaxis of HIV was presented to NEMLC. NEMLC acknowledged the efficacy and safety profile of CAB-LA, however, a final recommendation could not be confirmed until such time that a local price for CAB-LA is announced.

Comments on the Adult Hospital Level and Primary Health Care Palliative Care chapters are due by the **11 April 2023** 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>)

Documents for comment on the Adult Hospital Level and Primary Health Care Pain chapters will be circulated in due course and the closing date will then be communicated.

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 9: HIV** – NEMLC ratified the chapter, and accepted all National ART Guideline alignments, for clinical editing and *publication*, following updates.
 - **Paediatric Hospital Chapter 10: Tuberculosis** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for clinical editing and *publication*. Changes to the chapter will be updated once the NDoH TB Programme guidelines have been finalised.
 - **Paediatric Hospital Chapter 21: Palliative Care** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for clinical editing and *publication*.
 - **Paediatric Hospital COVID-19 Section** – NEMLC ratified the section for clinical editing and *publication*.