



NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC) BULLETIN FOR THE MEETING HELD ON 30 MARCH 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)
- **Adult Hospital Level:** STGs and EML 2019 Edition (plus updated chapters ratified by NEMLC)
- **Paediatric Hospital Level:** STGs and EML 2017 Edition (plus updated chapters ratified by NEMLC) *
- **Tertiary and Quaternary:** EML March 2023 Edition

**Complete 2023 edition to be released in next few months*

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

- **Knowledge Hub (most updated version of the STGs and EML):**

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, March 2023	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>. Please note there may be a lag time for any updated documents on Knowledge Hub to be translated onto the EMGuidance platform.

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 February to March 2023:

- **Notice:** Difference in Colour of Warfarin 5mg Tablets – 24 March 2023.
- **Notice for Comment:** Call for External Comment for PHC/Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML Pain Chapters – 29 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 21: Emergencies and Injuries** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *publication*, with amendments.
 - **Adult Hospital Chapter 20: Emergencies and Injuries** – NEMLC ratified the chapter for *publication*, with amendments.

- The following were reviewed by NEMLC:
 - o **Drug-resistant Tuberculosis (DR-TB) – BPaL** – NEMLC ratified the evidence review for *publication*, with amendments.
 - o **Cabotegravir long-acting (CAB-LA)** – NEMLC ratified the updated review and budget impact analysis for *publication*.
(Documents accessible at: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/primary-healthcare-phc-medicine-reviews-2020-2023>)

Comments on the Adult Hospital Level and Primary Health Care Pain chapters are due by the 25 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://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/notice-comment-phcadult-hospital-level-stgs-and-emi>)

TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY HOSPITAL LEVEL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

- The following has been reviewed and *ratified for publication*, with the respective NEMLC report:
 - **Calcium Folate Oral – Historically Accepted Use** – NEMLC ratified the report for *publication*, with amendments.
 - **Proton Pump Inhibitors IV – Class Allocation** – NEMLC ratified the report for *publication*, with amendments.

PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINE AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

All Chapters for the Paediatric STGs and EML, 2023 edition have been ratified by NEMLC.

The complete Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML, 2023 edition will be available in coming months.

COVID-19

- The following has been reviewed and *ratified for publication*.
 - **Nirmatrelvir and Ritonavir Review**: NEMLC ratified the review for *publication*, with amendments.