

Relationship Between the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) and Adult Primary Care (APC) Guideline

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Launch of the Adult Primary Care Guide
01 October 2026

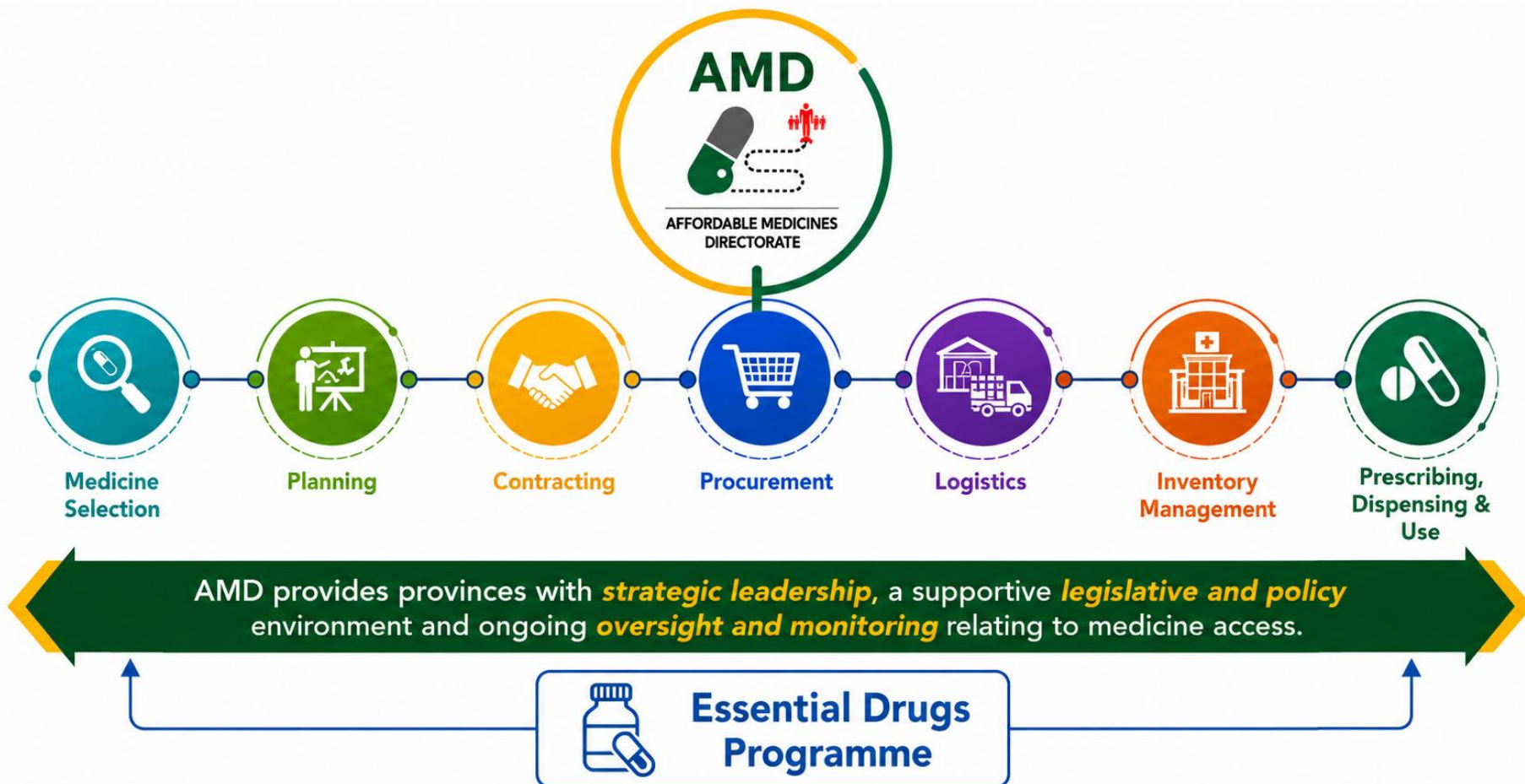


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Affordable Medicines Directorate



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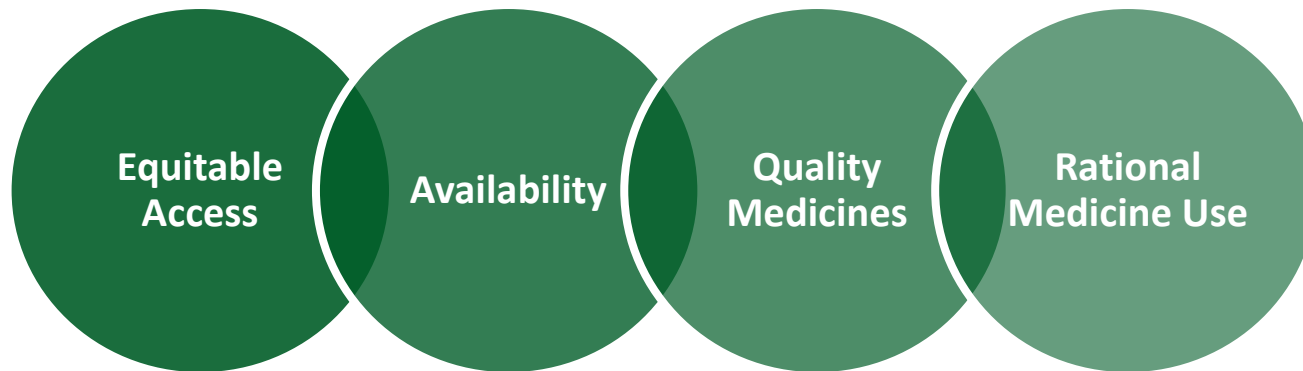
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Essential Drugs Programme



EDP aims to ensure that:

*“affordable, good quality essential **medicines** are available at all times in adequate amounts, in appropriate dosage forms, to all citizens”*



- EDP oversees development and implementation of the **Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs)** and **Essential Medicines List (EML)** of SA through the **National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC)** and the **Expert Review Committee (ERC)** of NEMLC –
 - **EML:** Developed to satisfy the priority health care needs of the population
 - **STGs:** Provide guidance on how to use medicines which appear on the EML

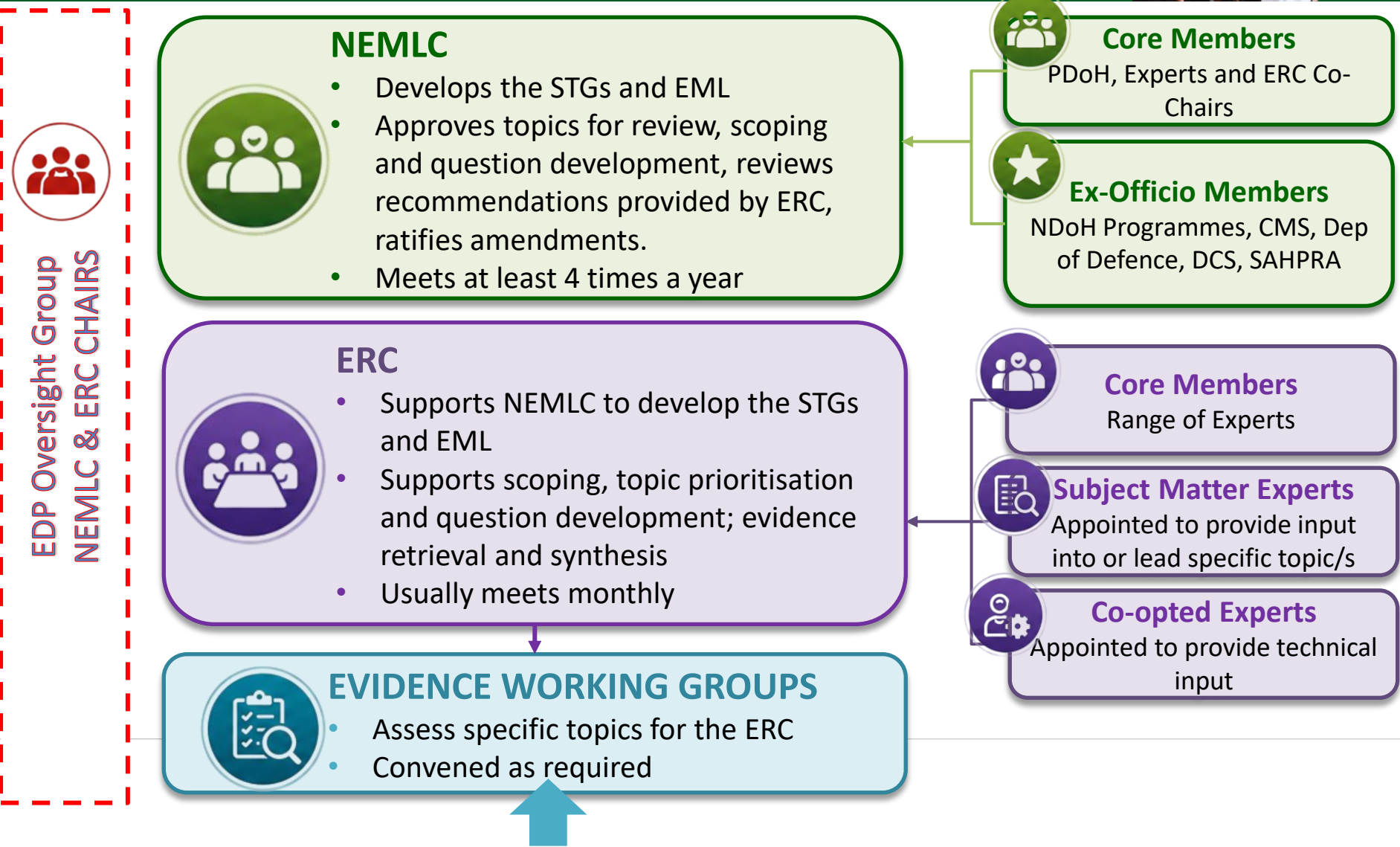


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Committee Structures



Exploring inclusion of patient representation

Latest STGs & EML – 2026



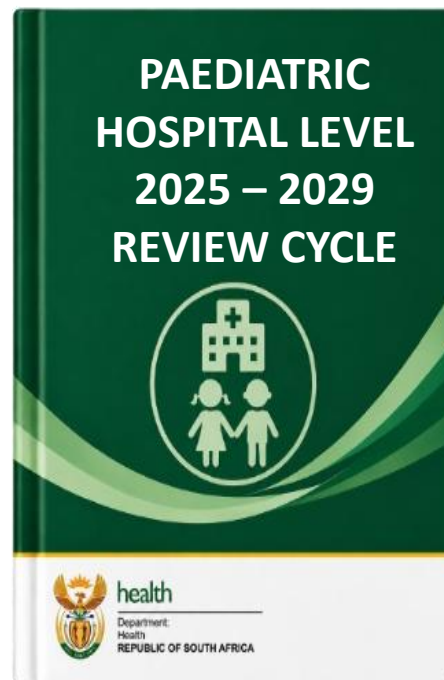
Updates are now happening across all levels of care simultaneously based on prioritisation – may be quarterly within a review cycle following NEMLC meetings



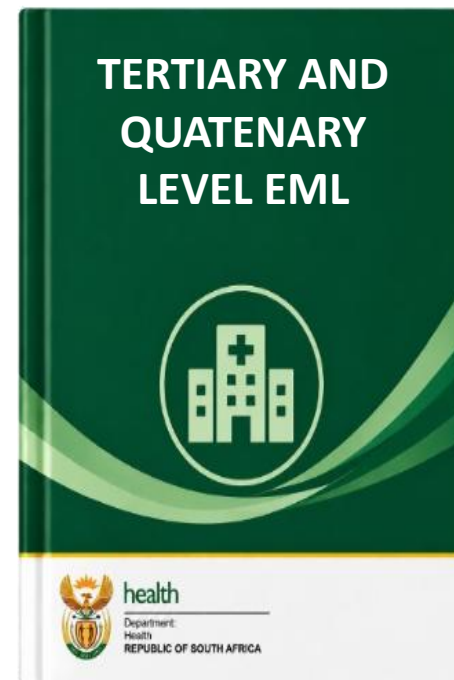
Updated
September 2026



Updated
September 2026



Updated
July 2026



Updated
July 2026



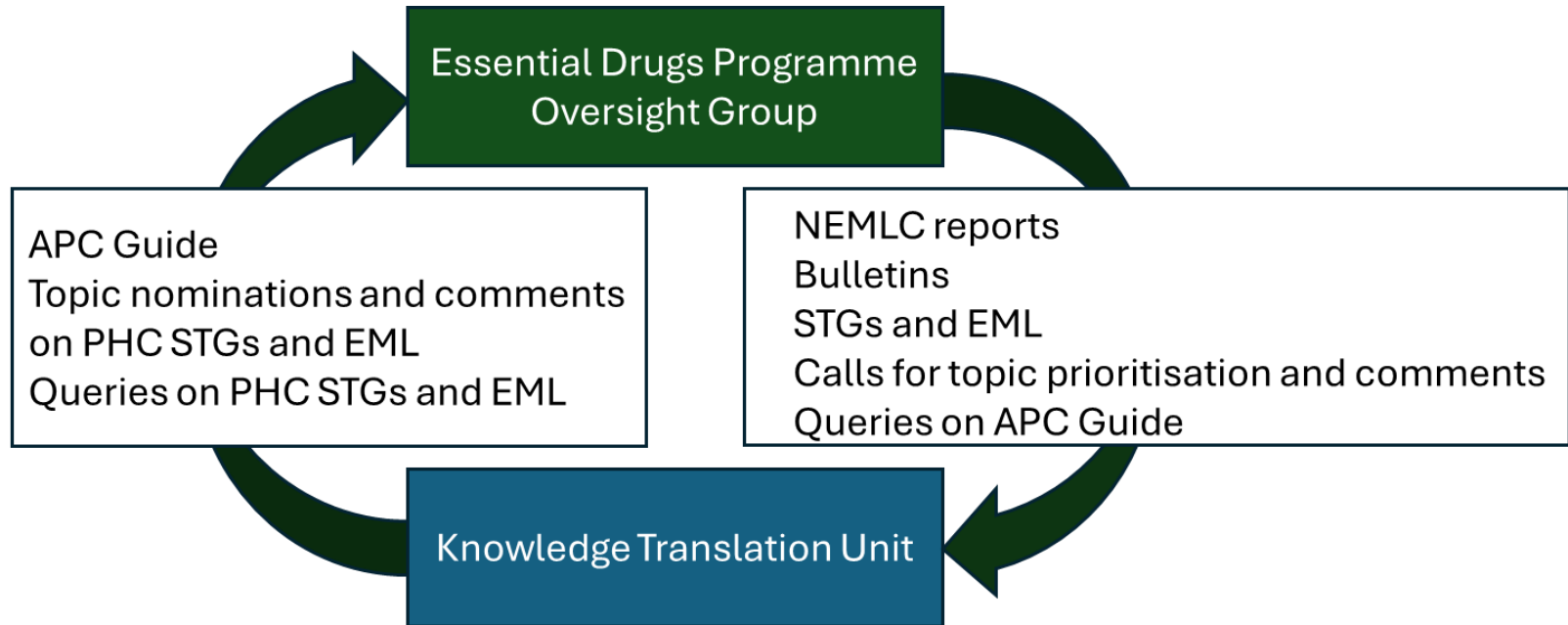
STGs are accompanied by technical documents e.g., medicine reviews, costing analyses, NEMLC reports, summary slides (for PHC STGs and EML)

Alignment: STGs/EML & APC Guide



- Adult Primary Care (APC) Guide complements the STGs and EML by focusing on practical implementation at the point of care.
- STGs and EML are diagnosis-driven and medicine-focused, intended to guide clinical practice.
- APC Guide provides implementation-oriented guidance to provide broader clinical context for the PHC Level.
- Together, these resources help bridge the gap between policy and practice.
- Although timelines for update and implementation may differ, ongoing efforts are underway to align the guidance documents.
- Engagements are ongoing between the EDP and KTU teams to align the APC Guide with the national PHC STGS & EML, including regular updates and coordinated management of any risks that may lead to inconsistencies in content between these and related programmatic guidelines.

Communication between the EDP & KTU



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Communication of Decisions



NEMLC Bulletin



Circulars



Webinars



**Stakeholder
Engagement
e.g. conferences,
exhibitions**



**WhatsApp
Communication
Group**



Website

- Updated STGs & EML
- Supporting Technical Documents



Resources



STGs & EML Related Documents



- NHI Webpage: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml>
- EMGuidance Mobile & Desktop Application: <http://onelink.to/sy896k>
- NEMLC Bulletins – circulated after each NEMLC meeting: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-comm/>
- Circulars: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-comm/>

New EDP WhatsApp Communication Channel



For the latest updates to the EDP, join our WhatsApp Channel below:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GEN6bH1rKYVKSJ1bz34Ne9>

OR

Scan the QR Code



Webinars



- Knowledge Hub: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinars>

Meet Our EDP Team



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Acknowledgements



**National Essential
Medicines List
Committee (NEMLC)**



**Expert Review
Committee (ERC)**



**Evidence Working
Groups (EWGs)**

Thank you



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