



## NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC) BULLETIN

### FOR THE MEETING HELD ON 31 MARCH 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
- **Hospital Level Paediatric:** STGs and EML 2017 Edition (plus updated chapters ratified by NEMLC)
- **Tertiary and Quaternary:** EML March 2022 Edition

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

- **EML Clinical Guide mobile application:** To download, click on the link: [https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.jembi.healthconnect.guides.ps.eml&hl=en\\_IN&gl=US](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.jembi.healthconnect.guides.ps.eml&hl=en_IN&gl=US)  
(Please note that the Primary Health Care STGs on this platform have not yet been updated to the 2020 version, but is accessible on the EMGuidance application)
- **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 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	<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, March 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>

#### ACCESS TO CIRCULARS FROM THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Circulars that are developed by the Essential Drugs Programme are currently uploaded on the Knowledge Hub. Please email SAEDP ([SAEDP@health.gov.za](mailto:SAEDP@health.gov.za)) if you would like to be placed on the mailing list for circulars and other EDP updates or for any queries.

The following notices for comment were disseminated from February to March 2022:

- Notice of Request for Comment: PHC and Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML, 31 March 2022 (see below).
- Erratum to the Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML, 2019, 5th edition, 13 April 2022 - *Dosing for ethanol 40% for ethylene glycol poisoning for non-drinkers on page 19.31 (Section 19.17.2) was corrected from “25 mL/kg/hour” to “0.25 mL/kg/hour”.*

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

- The following chapter has been reviewed by NEMLC and accepted for *final ratification*, following amendments recommended by the NEMLC:
  - **Chapter 4: Cardiovascular System** – NEMLC accepted the chapter for *final ratification*.
  - **Chapter 14: Paediatric Psychiatry** – NEMLC accepted the chapter for *final ratification*.
  - **Chapter 24: Drug Allergies** – NEMLC accepted the chapter for *final ratification*.

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

- The following have been reviewed and ratified for *external comment*, with the respective NEMLC report and respective medicine review(s):
  - **PHC Chapter 4: Cardiovascular conditions** - NEMLC ratified the chapter for *external comment (see NEMLC bulletin for NEMLC meeting of 24 February 2022)*.
  - **Adult Hospital Level Chapter 3: Cardiovascular conditions** - NEMLC ratified the chapter for *external comment* with amendments.
    - **Direct Oral Anticoagulants (DOACs) Medicine Review and Costing** - Patent court ruling against generic rivaroxaban (December 2021) requires the costing analysis for DOACs to be revised and re-tabled at the next NEMLC meeting (rivaroxaban supplied by generic companies to be withdrawn from the market).
  - **PHC Chapter 2: Gastrointestinal Conditions** - NEMLC ratified the chapter for *external comment*.
  - **Adult Hospital Level Chapter 1: Alimentary Tract** - NEMLC ratified the chapter for *external comment*.

Comments were due by the 11 May 2022 (*and then extended to 15 May 2022*) for submission via e-mail to:

Ms Trudy Leong

E-mail: [trudy.leong@health.gov.za](mailto:trudy.leong@health.gov.za)

(*Notice for comment documents accessible at: <https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/elibrary/notice-comment-phcadult-hospital-level-stgs-and-eml> )*

**Note:** An interactive webinar was hosted on the knowledge hub platform on the 10 May 2022, providing information on the proposed updated NEMLC recommendations for the cardiovascular chapters to encourage collaboration, peer review and submission of external comments. The recorded webinar, “UPDATES TO EVIDENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISORDERS”, is available at:

<https://www.knowledgehub.org.za/content/updates-evidence-based-management-cardiovascular-disorders-webinar>

- The updated **Topic Prioritisation Project Plan** was accepted by the NEMLC, noting that to-date:
  - 21 reviews completed and NEMLC-ratified (prioritised on previous prioritisation tool).
  - 21 topics migrated from previous prioritisation tool to new tool, total of 35 topics prioritised (1 duplicate and 5 non-prioritised).
  - 13 additional identified topics for prioritisation.

## **TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST**

- Historically Accepted Use:
  - **Atorvastatin high dose – familial hypercholesterolemia**  
NEMLC accepted the use of high dose atorvastatin for use in familial hypercholesterolemia in patients attending lipid clinics as prescribed by a specialist.

## **COVID-19 RAPID REVIEWS**

The most current version of the COVID-19 rapid review reports as well as governance documents are available on the NDoH website at: <http://www.health.gov.za/covid-19-rapid-reviews/>

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

- Rapid review of remdesivir – 15 February 2022
- Rapid review of nirmatrelvir-ritonavir-v2 – 14 March 2022

## THE ORIGIN OF ACE INHIBITORS

THE FIRST ACE INHIBITOR, CAPTOPRIL, WAS ORIGINALLY DERIVED FROM SNAKE VENOM. LAUNCHED IN 1981, CAPTOPRIL WAS BASED ON THE VENOM OF A POISONOUS BRAZILIAN VIPER (BOTHROPS JARARACA). PEPTIDES FROM THIS VENOM WAS ORIGINALLY TESTED ON DOG LUNGS, WHERE IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THEY WERE ABLE TO BLOCK THE ACTIVITY OF ANGIOTENSIN CONVERTING ENZYME (ACE).

