



NATIONAL ESSENTIAL
MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE

NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC) BULLETIN

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON THE 29 AUGUST 2024: MEETING OUTCOMES FOR STAKEHOLDER DISSEMINATION

Accessible on the following platforms:

Knowledge Hub: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/national-essential-medicines-list-committee-nemlc-2021-2024>

National Health Insurance (NHI) Website: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-comm/>

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 July 2024 (plus
individual chapters)**

TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY





EML August 2024 Edition




ACCESS TO THE STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

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

 **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, as well as a table with keywords
to be used.

 **NHI website (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.

 **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 Knowledge Hub 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

The current NEMLC Term of Office has been extended until April 2025



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

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

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

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

The following circulars were disseminated for 23 July 2024 – 03 October 2024:

- ❶ **Notice EDP12082024/01:** Aripiprazole for third-line treatment of Schizophrenia in adults – 13 August 2024
- ❷ **Notice 2024/10/03/EDP/01:** Adult Hospital Level (AHL) Appendix IV: extemporaneous preparations – morphine reformulation – 03 October 2024
- ❸ **Notice 2024/10/03/EDP/02:** Publication of the National Essential Medicines List (NEMLC) approved updates to the Primary Healthcare and Adult Hospital Level chapters for the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) - 2024 editions – 03 October 2024. The circular outlines updates to the following chapters in the PHC and Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML for the 2024 edition:
 - PHC Chapter 6: Obstetrics and Gynaecology
 - PHC Chapter 11: HIV and AIDS
 - PHC Appendix I: Asthma Monitoring
 - PHC Appendix II: Devices for Respiratory Conditions
 - PHC Chapter 17: Respiratory Conditions
 - PHC Chapter 18: Eye Conditions
 - AHL Chapter 2: Blood and Blood Forming Organs
 - AHL Chapter 10: HIV and AIDS
 - AHL Chapter 16: Respiratory System
 - AHL Appendix V: Asthma Monitoring
 - AHL Appendix VI: Devices for Respiratory Conditions
 - AHL Chapter 18: Eye Disorders

The circular outlines the publication of the following documents:

- Medicine Reviews PHC:
 - ❖ Aspirin for preeclampsia
 - ❖ Atazanavir/ritonavir vs lopinavir/ritonavir for adult HIV patients
 - ❖ Cabotegravir as PrEP for adults
 - ❖ Dapivirine ring for PrEP
 - ❖ Darunavir/ritonavir vs lopinavir/ritonavir for adult HIV patients
 - ❖ Dolutegravir (DTG) for first-line antiretroviral therapy
 - ❖ Dolutegravir (DTG) in pregnant women and women of child-bearing potential (WOCP)
 - ❖ Dolutegravir containing antiretroviral therapy in patients receiving rifampicin-containing TB treatment
 - ❖ Fluoroquinolones for MDR TB
 - ❖ Isoniazid Preventive Therapy (IPT) in Pregnancy and TPT for all household contacts
 - ❖ Recycling tenofovir (TDF) in second line antiretroviral therapy: Evidence from NADIA and ARTIST Trials
 - ❖ Tenofovir Alafenamide for HIV with an addendum included for Hep B non-HIV co-infected patients)
 - ❖ WHO Guideline Adolopment for Drug Resistant-TB

- Medicine Reviews AHL:
 - ❖ Aspirin for venous thromboembolism (VTE) prophylaxis in trauma-related fractures
 - ❖ Atazanavir/ritonavir vs lopinavir/ritonavir for adult HIV patients
 - ❖ Corticosteroid-sparing agents for severe uveitis
 - ❖ Darunavir/ritonavir vs lopinavir/ritonavir for adult HIV patients
 - ❖ Direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) for venous thromboembolism (VTE) prophylaxis in hospitalised, adult patients
 - ❖ Direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs) for the treatment of Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) or pulmonary embolism (PE) in hospitalized adult patients
 - ❖ Dolutegravir (DTG) for first-line antiretroviral therapy
 - ❖ Dolutegravir (DTG) in pregnant women and women of child-bearing potential
 - ❖ Guideline adaptation of NICE Guideline: VTE prophylaxis
 - ❖ Hyaluronidase Cataract surgery
 - ❖ Isoniazid Preventive Therapy (IPT) in Pregnancy
 - ❖ Low molecular weight heparins (LMWH) for secondary venous thromboembolism (VTE) prophylaxis during pregnancy and the puerperium.
 - ❖ Liposomal Amphotericin B for cryptococcal meningitis
 - ❖ Mitomycin and 5-FU for glaucoma
 - ❖ Oral prednisone/prednisolone for severe bilateral posterior uveitis and panuveitis
 - ❖ Prophylactic Factor IX compared to on-demand/episodic treatment for patients with severe haemophilia B without inhibitors
 - ❖ Prophylactic Factor VIII compared to on-demand treatment for patients (adults and children) with haemophilia A without inhibitors
 - ❖ Recycling tenofovir (TDF) in second-line antiretroviral therapy: evidence from NADIA and ARTIST Trials
 - ❖ Tenofovir Alafenamide for HIV with an addendum included for Hep B non-HIV co-infected patients)
 - ❖ WHO Guideline Adolopment for Drug Resistant-TB
- PHC Costing Analyses:
 - ❖ Budget Impact Analysis: TB Preventative Therapy for all household contacts
 - ❖ Cost Effectiveness Analysis: Dapivirine ring for PrEP
 - ❖ Cost Effectiveness and budget impact analysis: Cabotegravir as PrEP for adults
- PHC STGs and EML implementation slides:
 - ❖ Chapter 2: Gastrointestinal Conditions
 - ❖ Chapter 21: Emergencies and Injuries



Please email SAEDP (SAEDP@health.gov.za) if you would like to be added to the mailing list for circulars and other EDP updates.



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



The following documents have been reviewed and **ratified for publication**, following clinical editing as part of the 2024 edition of the STGs and EML:

- **PHC Level:**
 - PHC Appendix I: Asthma Monitoring
 - PHC Appendix II: Respiratory Devices
 - PHC Chapter 17: Respiratory Conditions
- **AH Level:**
 - AHL How to Use These Guidelines

The following chapters have been reviewed and **ratified for external comment**, with the respective NEMLC reports and relevant medicine review(s). The commenting period closed on **18 September 2024**.

- PHC Chapter 15: Central Nervous System Conditions
- AHL Chapter 14: Neurological Disorders

The following items were reviewed by NEMLC:

- **Long-acting Cabotegravir (CAB-LA)** – The NDoH has received a donation of injectable CAB-LA from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The NEMLC has noted the donation as accepted by the NDoH, in accordance with the SAHPRA's medicine donations policy. The CAB-LA evidence review document has been updated to include NEMLCs considerations for programmatic implementation and sustainability of supply. CAB-LA remains a non-EML medicine, until such time that more affordable generic alternatives become available. NEMLC will then reconsider the EML status of this medicine. The updated review document is accessible online at: <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Cabotegravir-as-PrEP-for-adults- EvidenceSummary v5.1 13-Sep-2024 FINAL.pdf>
- **Epilepsy STG** – The PHC and Adult Hospital Level ERC developed an algorithm to promote understanding of the different epilepsy treatment choices included in the PHC and Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML, which was ratified by NEMLC for external comment.

DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED SINCE LAST NEMLC BULLETIN

➤ **PHC Level**

Chapters:

- **PHC Chapter 6: Obstetrics and Gynaecology** – *updated*
- **PHC Chapter 11: HIV and AIDS**
- **PHC Chapter 17: Respiratory Conditions**
- **PHC Appendix I: Asthma Monitoring**
- **PHC Appendix II: Respiratory Devices**
- **PHC Chapter 18: Eye Conditions**

Implementation Slides:

- **Chapter 21: Emergencies and Injuries**
- **Chapter 2: Gastro-intestinal Conditions**

➤ **AHL Level**

- **AH Chapter 1: Alimentary Tract**
- **AH Chapter 2: Blood and Blood Forming Organs**
- **AH Chapter 10: HIV and AIDS**
- **AH Chapter 16: Respiratory Disorders**
- **Appendix VI: Respiratory Conditions – devices**
- **AH Chapter 18: Eye Disorders**

➤ **Medicine Reviews**

For a list of the latest medicine reviews published refer to **Notice 2024/10/03/EDP/02** mentioned above: Publication of the NEMLC approved updates to the PHC and Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML – 2024 editions.

More details can also be found in the corresponding NEMLC reports appended in each of the ratified chapters.



PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

The complete Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML, 2023 edition, updated July 2024 (plus individual chapters updated and ratified by NEMLC) is available for download on NHI webpage on the following link: https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Paediatric-STGs-and-EML-2023-Edition_Updated-July-2024.pdf or the Knowledge Hub on: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/hospital-level-paediatric-standard-treatment-guidelines-stgs-and-essential-medicines-list>

- An erratum to the Paediatric STGs and EML 2023 edition has been published: https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Paed_STG-EML-errata-July2024.pdf and <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/hospital-level-paediatric-standard-treatment-guidelines-stgs-and-essential-medicines-list>
- 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 or on the following link: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinars>.

The following items were reviewed by NEMLC:

- **Morphine extemporaneous preparation** – Paediatric related concerns were raised regarding the alcohol content in the morphine extemporaneous preparation using the commercially available Nipastat. Refer to **Notice 2024/10/03/EDP/01** for guidance on the use of morphine extemporaneous preparation in children under the age of 6 years old where higher alcohol content is of concern.



TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY HOSPITAL LEVEL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

The following items were reviewed by NEMLC:

- **Phosphodiesterase-5 (PDE5) Inhibitors in Adults with WHO group 1 Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH)** – The medicine review on PDE5 inhibitors in adults with World Health Organisation (WHO) group 1 PAH was presented to NEMLC. NEMLC recommended the inclusion of PDE5-inhibitors as a class (sildenafil, tadalafil and vardenafil) for this indication.



HAEMOPHILIA SUBCOMMITTEE

The following items were reviewed by NEMLC:

- **Emicizumab Criteria for use** – NEMLC previously approved, in principle, the inclusion of emicizumab (June 2024) as a special access item for severe haemophilia A patients with inhibitors, pending the development of a criteria for use document. NEMLC ratified the criteria for use document and recommended that the use of emicizumab be carefully monitored by health establishments and Provincial Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees (PTCs).
- **Haemophilia STGs** – NEMLC ratified the Blood and Blood Forming Organs chapters for the Adult and Paediatric Level STGs and EML for finalisation and publication.

Final reviews and supporting technical documents are published on the following links: Knowledge Hub's eLibrary: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/hospital-level-tertiary-quaternary-medicine-recommendations-medicine-reviews-and-costing> and the NHI website: <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/>



WEBINAR SERIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STGS AND EML

Take note of the advertisements 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 2024 editions of the Primary Healthcare and Adult Hospital Level STGs and EML.

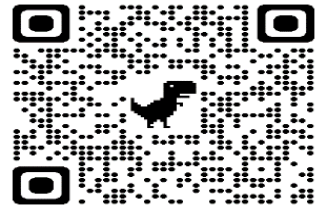
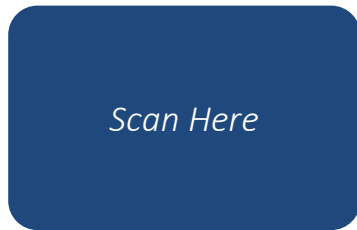
Webinars completed with presentations and recordings are available on the Knowledge Hub:

| Date | Webinar Title | Link |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 25 June 2024 | <u>Webinar 1</u> : Health Technology Assessment | https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/national-department-health-standard-treatment-guidelines-essential-medicines-list-session-1 |
| 16 July 2024 | <u>Webinar 2</u> : Mental Health Conditions – updates to the STGs | https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/mental-health-updates-ndoh-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicine-list |
| 30 July 2024 | <u>Webinar 3</u> : Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Family Planning STGs | https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/obstetrics-and-gynaecology-and-family-planning-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential |
| 13 August 2024 | <u>Webinar 4</u> : Adult Critical Care – introduction to new STGs | https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/adult-critical-care-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list |
| 27 August 2024 | <u>Webinar 5</u> : Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance | https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/infections-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list-and-antimicrobial |
| 17 September 2024 | <u>Webinar 6</u> : Emergencies and Injuries and Poisonings – Updates to the STGs | https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/emergencies-injuries-and-poisonings-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines |

Upcoming webinars include:

| Date | Webinar Title |
|------------------|--|
| 29 October 2024 | <u>Webinar 7</u> : HIV STGs & EML and Programme updates |
| 26 November 2024 | <u>Webinar 8</u> : Blood and Blood Forming Organs, Haemophilia – Updates to STGs and EML |

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

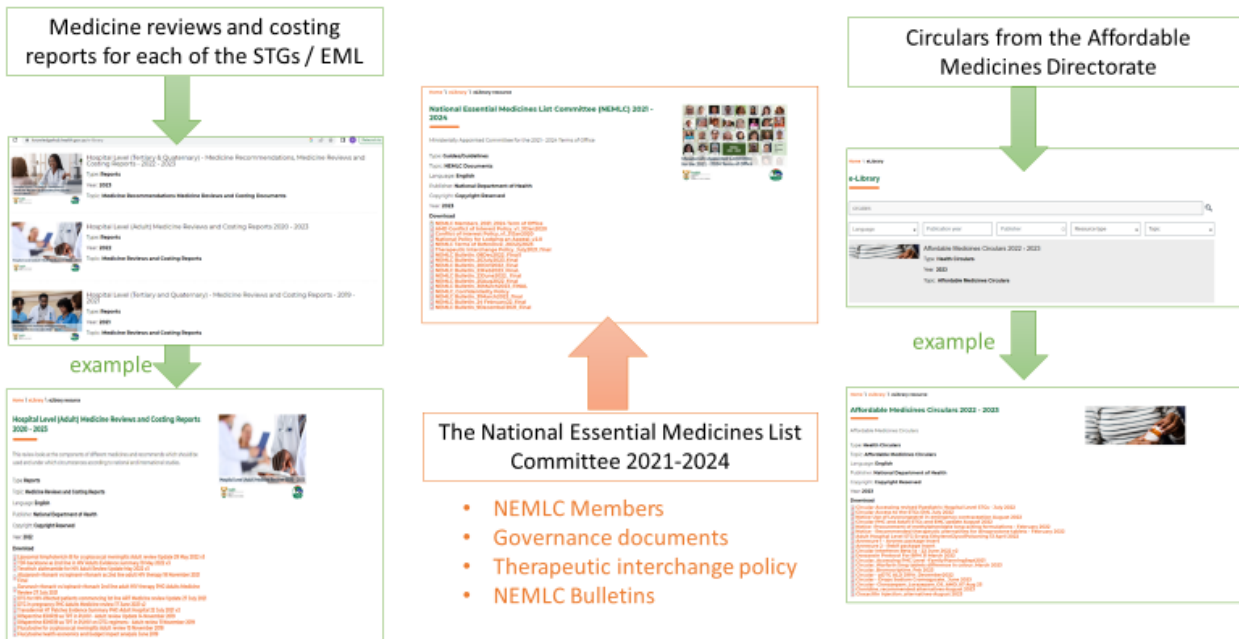


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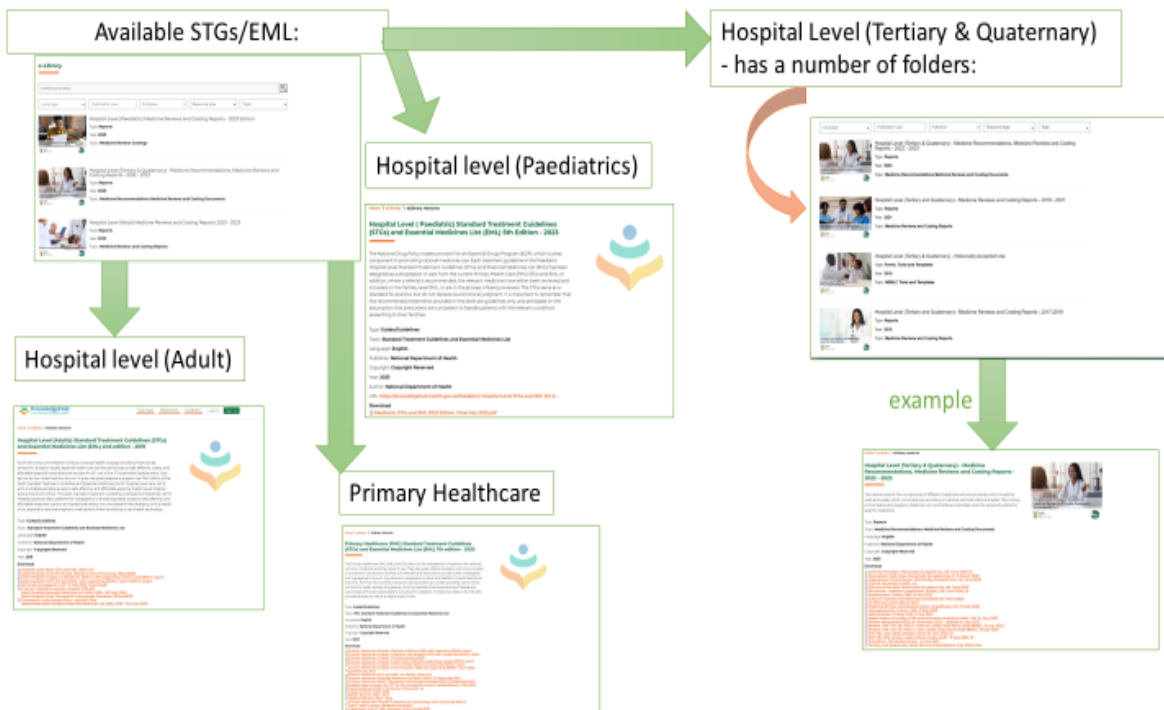


Other keywords that you can use:
'hospital level'; 'paediatric'; 'adult'; 'tertiary';
'notice for comment'

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> |
|--|---|--|
| Primary Healthcare (PHC) Level, 2020 <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 be replacing chapters from the 2020 edition and form part of the 2024 edition, medicine reviews, costing reports, implementation slides, therapeutic interchange database, EML based on 2020 edition of the STGs and EML |
| Hospital Level – Paediatrics, 2023 <i>(plus updated Chapters ratified by NEMLC, Errata, Medicine Reviews and Costing Reports)</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 |
| Hospital Level – Adults, 2019 <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, therapeutic interchange database, notices of errata from the 2019 edition, EML based on the 2019 edition of the STGs and EML |
| Tertiary and Quaternary Level, August 2024 | Hospital Level, Hospital, Tertiary & Quaternary, Tertiary, Quaternary, Medicine Recommendations, Medicine Reviews, Costing Reports | 2022 - 2024 medicine reviews, costing reports, latest Tertiary and Quaternary EML 2017 – 2021 medicine reviews and costing documents in separate folders but same key words |
| Medicine Reviews and Costing Reports | 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 |
| Notice for Comment | 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 |
| National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC) | NEMLC, National Essential, Essential Medicines, Committee | Member photos with short biographies, policies, NEMLC terms of reference, NEMLC bulletins |
| Affordable Medicines Circulars | Affordable Medicines Circulars, Affordable Medicines, Circulars | 2022 - 2024 circulars |
| Health Technology Assessment (HTA) | Health Technology Assessment, Health Technology, HTA, Essential Medicines List | HTA Methods Guide, HTA Methods Guide Templates |