



NATIONAL ESSENTIAL
MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE

NATIONAL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST COMMITTEE (NEMLC) BULLETIN

FOR THE MEETING HELD ON THE 10 OCTOBER 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 October 2024**

TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY





EML October 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):

 **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

 **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.

 **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 07 April 2025



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

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

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

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

The following circulars were disseminated for the period 05 October 2024 – November 2024:

- ❗ **Notice EDP11102024/01:** Ethionamide availability and therapeutic alternative – 14 October 2024]
- ❗ **Notice EDP17102024/01:** Ultra-fast-acting and long-acting insulin analogue interim essential medicines list status - 17 October 2024
- ❗ **Notice 2024/10/28/EDP/01:** Publication of the National Essential Medicines List Committee (NEMLC) approved updates to the Primary Healthcare (PHC) and Adult Hospital Level (AHL) chapters for the Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) – 2024 Editions – 28 October 2024. The circular outlines updates to the following chapters in the PHC and AHL STGs and EML for the 2024 edition:
 - PHC Chapter 8: Kidney and Urological Disorders
 - PHC Chapter 13: Immunisation (chapter update)
 - PHC Chapter 21: Emergencies and Injuries (chapter update)
 - PHC Chapter 23: Standard Paediatric Dosing Tables
 - AHL Chapter 7: Nephrology/Urological Disorders
 - AHL Chapter 9: Systemic and Healthcare-associated Infections (chapter update)
 - AHL APPENDIX IV: Extemporaneous preparations- Potassium Chloride oral solution

The circular outlines the publication of the following medicine reviews:

- AHL Medicine class review of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents
- ❗ **Erratum 2024/10/25/EDP/01:** Erratum-3 to the Paediatric Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicine List, 2023, 5th Edition – 28 October 2024
- ❗ **Notice EDP03092024/01:** Availability of Flucytosine – 29 October 2024
- ❗ **Notice:** Drug-Drug Interactions between Corticosteroids (Budesonide and Fluticasone) and Protease Inhibitors – 29 October 2024



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



NEMLC PRIORITIES FOR 2025

The following topics have been identified as **short-term review priorities** of NEMLC for the period ending 07 April 2025:

TOPIC/CONDITION	LEVEL OF CARE
Asthma	All levels of care
Epilepsy	All levels of care
Glaucoma	All levels of care
Family Planning (including DMPA SC)	Primary Healthcare
PrEP injectable	Primary Healthcare
Oral hypoglycemics	All levels of care
Tuberculosis prophylaxis	All levels of care



These topics are subject to change based on the operational and strategic priorities of NEMLC. The review process is an ongoing process in which NEMLC takes note of comments and concerns raised by external stakeholders. This input, together with other criteria, are considered during the prioritisation process. Any safety issues raised are dealt with urgency.



OTHER MATTERS ARISING

The following items were reviewed by NEMLC:

- **Ethionamide for TB Meningitis (TBM) and Miliary TB** – Due to the current stock availability challenges with ethionamide, alternative recommendations are required for TBM and Miliary TB. NEMLC have proposed two possible alternative regimens: (1) The World Health Organisation (WHO) 12-month regimen of 12RHZE + 10RH, OR (2) The replacement of ethionamide with levofloxacin in the current 6-month regimen i.e., RHZ + levofloxacin. The regimen choice should be considered on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with a specialist. Notice EDP11102024/01 outlines the details of the recommendation has been published and is available on the NHI and Knowledge Hub websites. (*R - rifampicin, H – isoniazid, Z- pyrazinamide, E – ethambutol*)
- **Central Nervous System/Neurological Disorders** – Following external comment of the Epilepsy STGs, NEMLC have recommended that additional review of the Epilepsy STGs be conducted, considering the substantive comments received. An Epilepsy Subcommittee has been established to review external comments and align recommendations across all levels of care.
- **Insulin Analogues** – Due to the recent challenges faced with availability of insulin pen sets, particularly human insulin, NEMLC has recommended that insulin analogue products currently on tender be listed on the EML temporarily. Notice EDP17102024/01 relating to this has been published on the National Health Insurance (NHI) and Knowledge Hub websites.



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

The following items were reviewed by NEMLC:

- **Carbapenem-related seizure risk** – The evidence in support of meropenem over imipenem/cilastatin for patients with a history of seizure disorders was re-evaluated. NEMLC has recommended that the AH Chapter 9 Infections chapter be revised to remove the statement recommending the preferential use of meropenem over imipenem in patients at risk of seizures. The updated chapter and associated NEMLC report (version 1.1) are published on the NHI and Knowledge Hub websites.
- **Rabies Immunoglobulin and vaccine** – Following a query regarding the authorised prescribers of rabies vaccine, the PHC Chapter 21 Emergencies and Injuries has been updated to include prescribing restrictions as ‘doctor initiated’ for the rabies vaccine and ‘doctor prescribed’ for rabies immunoglobulin. The updated PHC chapter 21 with supporting NEMLC report (version 1.1) is published on the NHI and Knowledge Hub websites.

**DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED
SINCE LAST NEMLC
BULLETIN**

➤ **PHC Level**

Chapters:

- **PHC Chapter 8:** Kidney and Urological Disorders with supporting NEMLC report
- **PHC Chapter 13:** Immunisation with supporting NEMLC report (*Update: 2020-2024 version: 1.0*)
- **PHC Chapter 21:** Emergencies and Injuries with supporting NEMLC report (*Updated 2020-2024 version 1.1*)
- **PHC Chapter 23:** Standard Paediatric Dosing Tables

➤ **AHL Level**

- **AH Chapter 7:** Nephrological/Urological Disorders with supporting NEMLC report
- **AH Chapter 9:** Systemic and Healthcare-associated Infections with supporting NEMLC report (*Updated 2020-2024 version 1.1*)
- **Appendix IV:** Extemporaneous Preparations - Potassium Chloride Oral Solution

➤ **Medicine Reviews**

- **Erythropoiesis Stimulating-Agents (AHL)**



PAEDIATRIC HOSPITAL LEVEL STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

The complete Paediatric Hospital Level STGs and EML, 2023 edition, updated October 2024 is available for download on NHI webpage on the following link: <https://www.health.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Paediatric-STGs-and-EML-2023-Edition-Updated-October-2024.pdf> or the Knowledge Hub on: <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/hospital-level-paediatric-standard-treatment-guidelines-stgs-and-essential-medicines-list>

- Errata to the Paediatric STGs and EML 2023 edition have been published and can be accessed on <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/> and <https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/elibrary/hospital-level-paediatric-standard-treatment-guidelines-stgs-and-essential-medicines-list>
 - October 2024
 - July 2024
 - December 2023
- The latest updates listed in the October 2024 errata are:
 - Inclusion of updated haemophilia STGs including Factor VIII and Factor IX prophylaxis for severe haemophilia A without inhibitors and haemophilia B without inhibitors respectively.
 - Alignment of Rabies recommendations to the PHC STGs and EML. This includes updates for the use of rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine.
- 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>.



TERTIARY AND QUATERNARY HOSPITAL LEVEL ESSENTIAL MEDICINES LIST

The following items were reviewed by NEMLC:

- **Infliximab in acute, severe ulcerative colitis** – The medicine review for Infliximab in patients with acute, severe ulcerative colitis, refractory to intravenous corticosteroid therapy was presented to NEMLC. The Committee recommended the inclusion of infliximab in the Tertiary and Quaternary level EML for the condition as stated above.
- **Transdermal Fentanyl in patients with renal impairment** – The medicine review for transdermal fentanyl in patients with renal impairment was presented to NEMLC. The Committee recommended the inclusion of transdermal fentanyl in the Tertiary and Quaternary level EML for patients with severe stable pain with renal impairment (GFR < 30 mL/min/1.73m²) or on dialysis; where opioids cannot be safely titrated and used.



HAEMOPHILIA SUBCOMMITTEE

The work of the haemophilia subcommittee has concluded, and the highlights of the work completed by the subcommittee are listed below:

Reviews and Cost Analyses

- **Factor VIII prophylaxis** for severe haemophilia A without inhibitors.
- **Factor IX prophylaxis** for severe haemophilia B without inhibitors.
- **Emicizumab** prophylaxis for severe haemophilia A with inhibitors (EML, special access).

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 2020-2024 review cycle 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 and EML	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 and EML	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 and EML	https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/adult-critical-care-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list
27 August 2024	<u>Webinar 5:</u> Infections STGs and EML, and Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Report	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 and EML	https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/emergencies-injuries-and-poisonings-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines
29 October 2024	<u>Webinar 7:</u> HIV and AIDS – Updates to the STGs and EML	https://knowledgehub.health.gov.za/webinar/hiv-and-aids-standard-treatment-guidelines-and-essential-medicines-list

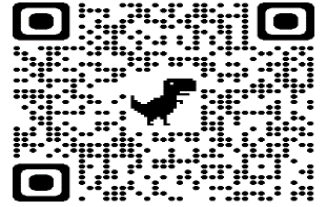
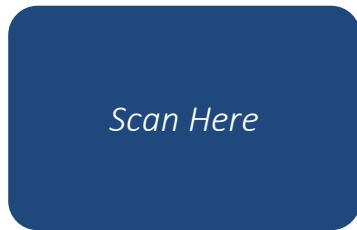
Upcoming webinars include:

Date	Webinar Title
26 November 2024	<u>Webinar 8:</u> Blood and Blood Forming Organs, Haemophilia – Updates to STGs and EML

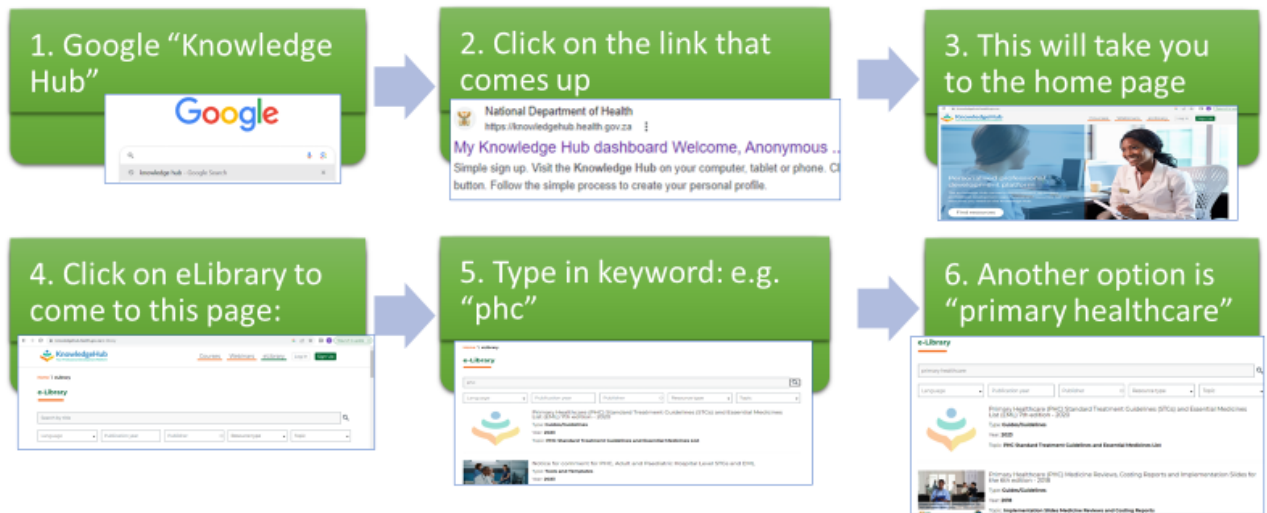


There will be more webinars to follow in 2025
Watch this space

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

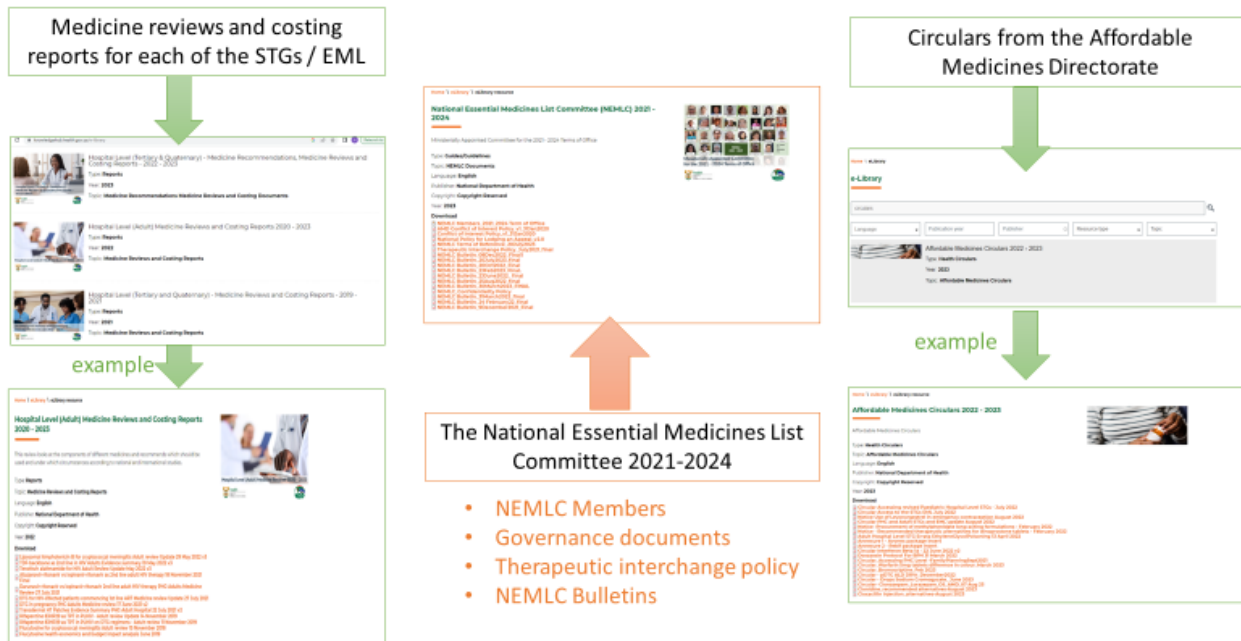


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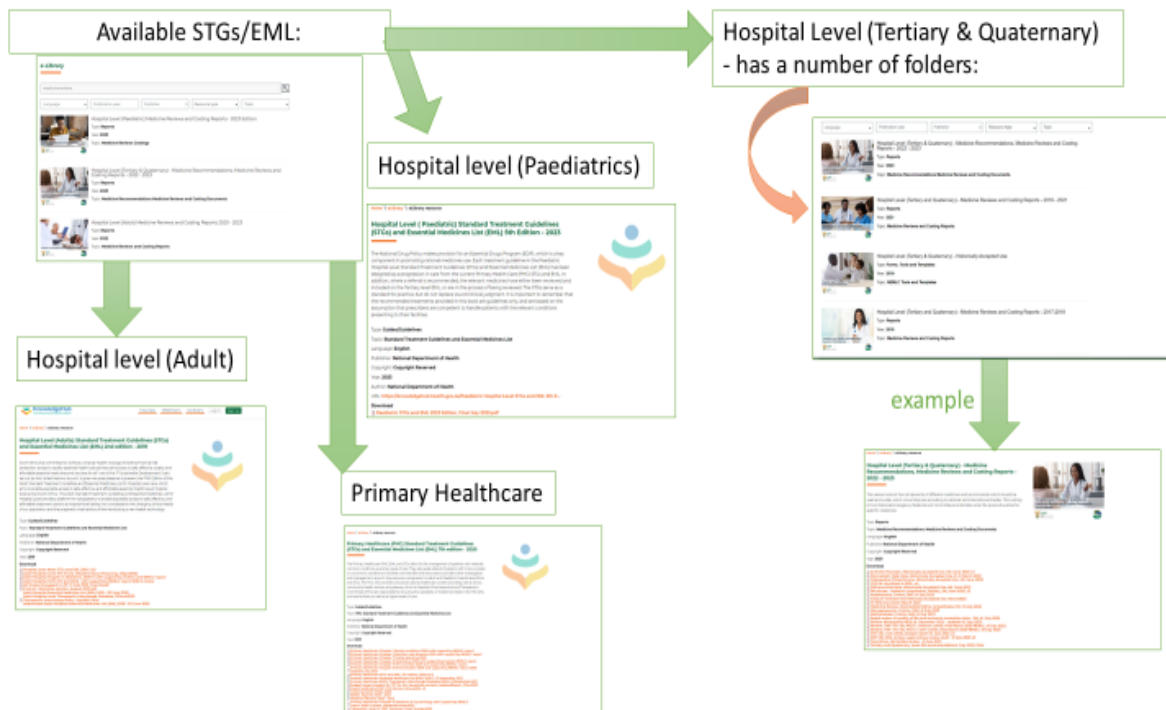


Other keywords that you can use:
 'hospital level'; 'paediatric'; 'adult'; 'tertiary';
 'notice for comment'

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_updated October 2024 <i>(plus Errata)</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, October 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