



Republic of Namibia

Ministry of Health and Social Services

Windhoek
Namibia

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Enquiries: Dr B. Lohrke

Ref: Revision STGs

Date: 18 July 2017

**To: All General Practitioners
Namibia**

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Namibia Standard Treatment Guideline (STG) revision: Your input on layout, content and promotion of usage by end-users

Background

The MoHSS is revising the Namibia Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs), first published in 2011. Continual advancement in the healthcare field, especially in the treatment protocols for new emerging and re-emerging diseases, makes it important that this revision is done regularly (5 yearly). The revised STGs will provide a consistent approach in the treatment of various diseases and medical conditions.

The STG is a guideline not only for doctors (both private and MoHSS), but also for medical, nursing, pharmacy and other health sciences students. Furthermore, they are a key reference document for health care workers practicing within the Namibian health care system, including nurses working in the peripheral clinics. According to the Health Professions Council of Namibia (HPCNA), the STG provide the minimal standard of care. This means the STGs must be relevant, user-friendly and up-to-date.

Method

Medical Consultants have been approached to peruse various documents pertaining to their specialty. Each one must revise each document for the following:

- A brief introduction describing the clinical condition or disease
- Causes
- Common signs and symptoms of the disease or condition
- Clinical investigations (what tests or procedures to perform to diagnose the condition)
- Management of the disease or condition must be shown on 2 levels:
 - For clinic, health centre, hospital: This is when sisters or junior doctors or health care workers in peripheral smaller institutions can do certain actions only.....
 - For hospital: This is when the patient has been referred to a district or referral hospital and more advanced treatment can be given.....
- Health education to guide through diagnostics and medicine and non-medicine treatments

Action required by you the end-user:

1. Review the existing 2011 Namibia Standard Treatment Guidelines (online PDF version available)
2. Discuss general availability, user-friendliness and whether you or colleagues use the STGs at all, and what can be done to improve usage.
3. Use the NEMList annex 4 sections A and B, with evidence based substantiation to make any requests for change, especially with regards to management.
4. Complete the attached Questionnaire (see below)
5. Send the questionnaire before 15 August 2017 to

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Outcome

The outcome will be a **revised, printed and disseminated Namibia Standard Treatment Guidelines 2nd edition, by end December 2017.**

Please help us make the STGs a truly national medical guideline by giving us your input.

Yours sincerely

Dr Britta Lohrke

2nd edition Namibia STG: Layout and Usage Questionnaire

Doctor/ Practice Name:

Date:

<u>LAYOUT of Book</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Yes/No</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Book size	Satisfied with the size?	Y/N	
Cover page	Satisfied with the cover page? Another colour for second edition?	Y/N Y/N	
Table of content	Table of content clear?	Y/N	
Sections (e.g. page 199)	Satisfied with the sections? Different order?	Y/N Y/N	
Chapters (e.g.pg 279)	Satisfied with the chapters?	Y/N	
Appendices	Are they helpful? Should they be kept?	Y/N Y/N	
Index	Is this disease clear? Should the medicines index be kept?	Y/N Y/N	
Font	Good readable sized font?	Y/N	
Margins	Good margin size?	Y/N	
Colours	Should the colour scheme be more varied?	Y/N	

<u>Promote usage</u>	<u>Question</u>	<u>Yes/No</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Relevant to practice	STGs relevant to daily work?	Y/N	
Easy to use	Are they easy to use?	Y/N	
Widely available	Available in every ward?	Y/N	
Evidence based	Do you trust the recommended Rx	Y/N	
Technically competent	Management protocols are good	Y/N	
Adherence	Would you adhere to Rx guidelines?	Y/N	
Good references	Easy to find my way around ?	Y/N	
Flow charts (e.g. page 616)	Easy to follow? Additional flow charts?	Y/N Y/N	
Exclamation marks (e.g. page 706)	Do they promote quicker action? Will you refer quicker?	Y/N Y/N	
Note (e.g. page 359)	Are these notes clear enough?	Y/N	
Text boxes	Should there be text boxes to highlight? (e.g. management)	Y/N	
Improve Usage by Phone app/ e- version	Am I satisfied with the book? Would I use it more if it were an App or electronic version?	Y/N Y/N	
Training wanted	Additional training needed before use?	Y/N	
Intended user	Do you know the intended users?	Doctor/ sister/all	

For any suggestions/further comments please use the reverse side of the questionnaire!!