



**To:** All Heads of Divisions, Chief Directorates, Directorates, Districts, Regions and Institutions

**Circular:** 45 / 2021

## **IMPLEMENTATION ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE UPDATED 2019 INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESS (IMCI) GUIDELINE**

### **Executive Summary**

The World Health Organisation developed the evidence-based chart booklet/guideline with the purpose of promoting the best possible clinical practices while considering the risks and benefits, acceptability, feasibility, cost and other resource implications. It contains clinical algorithms, information and instructions to simplify and fast track care of sick children, manage the daily caseload effectively and efficiently and expedite referral where necessary. The IMCI guideline is an easy reference tool for use by clinicians and allied health professionals who consult young infants and children under the age of five years. It facilitates the use of the IMCI case management process in practice and describes a series of all the case management steps in a system of IMCI charts.

The priority areas identified through the evidence review, is focused on settings with limited health systems capacity and resources. It includes integrated management and screening of several common causes of fever and conditions like measles, tuberculosis and HIV in neonates and children up to the age of 5-years in line with the Ideal Clinic- and Nurturing Care Components, First Thousand Days, Road to Health Booklet and Side-by-Side Campaign.

The 2019 updated South African IMCI guideline was released by the National Department of Health in 2020 during the peak of the 1st Covid-19 wave. Two virtual update training sessions were coordinated by PDC, with the initial session co-facilitated by the National Department of Health. Further training was to be rolled out by the Trainers in preparation for implementation of the guideline. It is requested that where training was rolled out, or will still be rolled out, that all IMCI training attendance registers be submitted to the People Development Centre (PDC) as they are responsible for the capturing and reporting on all IMCI training conducted.

The People Development Centre has facilitated the printing of the 2019 IMCI Chart booklet, and will coordinate its distribution from 21 January 2021, according to the list which had been confirmed prior to the procurement of printing. Any additional IMCI guideline requests for training purposes, and all IMCI training related enquiries may be directed to [Thanya.Petersen@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Thanya.Petersen@westerncape.gov.za)

Printing of the updated 2019 stationary (Birth to 2 Months- and 2 Months to 5 Years Recording Forms) is for own budget and printing by services.

Attempts to synchronise the roll-out of the updated guideline had been impacted upon by the Covid-19 pandemic and additional pressure on resources. However, to minimise confusion and ensure users are in accord, it is strongly recommended that implementation happens in sync within a specific service/referral area (i.e. sub-district).

The following Annexures are attached:

1. An example of the attendance register
2. Birth to 2-Months Recording Form
3. 2-Months to 5-Years Recording Form

Below please find the department website details and nurturing care components for more information:

1. <https://www.westerncape.gov.za/first-1000-days/>
2. <https://nurturing-care.org/about/components/>

Ms Sonia Botha can be contacted at [Sonia.Botha@westerncape.gov.za](mailto:Sonia.Botha@westerncape.gov.za) for further enquiries in this regard.



**DR SAADIQ KARIEM**

**DDG: CHIEF OF OPERATIONS**

**DATE: 06/04/2021**