What is New in this Guideline?

Terminology	**TLD 1** (or ALD 1 in children)	Clients on a DTG-containing regimen, who have **never failed** any other regimen (previous "first-line" terminology)
	TLD 2 (or ALD 2 in children)	Clients on a DTG-containing regimen, who **have failed** an earlier regimen (previous "second-line" terminology)
	Dispensing cycle:	A dispensing cycle (DC) is defined as the number of days for which a client would have treatment if a single standard "monthly" quantity of tablets were dispensed. The term DC is preferred to the previously used term 'month' due to the potential discrepancy that may arise between the days of treatment dispensed (if 28-day pack sizes are used) and the days in a month (on average, 30 days)
ART Regimens	**All adult and adolescent clients > 30 kg and > 10 years of age, including pregnant and breastfeeding women**	• The preferred first-line ART regimen is **tenofovir disoproxil fumarate-lamivudine-dolutegravir (TLD)** for those adult and adolescent clients initiating ART. • TDF weight-related eligibility criteria decreased from **35 kg to 30 kg** • All clients already on ART and not on dolutegravir (DTG), whether on first-line or second-line regimens, should be evaluated for a switch to a dolutegravir-containing regimen.
		• TDF may safely be reused in 2nd-line therapy following 1st-line failure with TDF-containing regimens. TLD will therefore be used as both first (TLD 1) and second (TLD 2) line regimens and in certain cases, 3rd line regimens as well • Simplified **switching from TEE to TLD not dependant on VL**
	New formulations	• **DTG 10 mg dispersible tablets** for children from ≥ 3kg and ≥ 4 weeks of age • DTG-containing fixed-dose combination: Abacavir (ABC) 600 mg + lamivudine (3TC) 300 mg + DTG 50 mg (ALD FDC). ALD FDC can be prescribed for clients ≥ 25 kg
	Children ≥ 3 kg and ≥ 4 weeks of age until 29,9 kg or 9 years of age	• The preferred first-line ART regimen is **abacavir-lamivudine-dolutegravir (ALD)**. • All paediatric clients already on ART and not on dolutegravir (DTG), whether on first-line or second-line regimens, should be evaluated for a switch to a dolutegravir-containing regimen.
	Other antiretrovirals	• **Abacavir** is the preferred alternative agent if TDF cannot be used • Zidovudine (AZT) no longer part of any standard ART regimen. AZT will be reserved only for cases with **both** renal failure **and** ABC hypersensitivity • **Atazanavir/r** replaces lopinavir/r as the preferred protease inhibitor except when on TB treatment
Monitoring on ART	**VL monitoring**	**First VL** after ART initiation to be done after 3 dispensing cycles
	Creatinine and eGFR	eGFR previously done at 'month' 6 moves to 'month' 3 (i.e. after 3 dispensing cycles) to align with the new VL monitoring schedule
Virological Failure	• **Definition:** two or more VLs ≥ 1000 c/mL taken two or more years after starting a DTG/PI-containing regimen and adherence > 80% • **Focus on improved adherence:** Resistance to DTG is very uncommon. If other reasons for an unsuppressed VL (including drug interactions) have been addressed or excluded, the highest probability of improving adherence would be to remain on a once-daily, well-tolerated, fixed-dose combination regimen (TLD) while identifying and addressing the underlying root causes of non-adherence. • **No regimen changes without a resistance test:** Switching off a DTG-containing regimen should only happen if InSTI resistance has been confirmed by a resistance test • Resistance testing can only be authorised by a member of the National Third-line committee, one of the helpline consultants, or a nominated provincial expert	

Other updates	• 2 high quality counselling sessions at ART start and at follow-up a month later
	• Reduces health facility visits in the first year on ART to support continued engagement in care, including visit schedule for first year on treatment.
	• Removes time on ART from repeat prescription collection strategies (RPCs) eligibility criteria, enabling access as soon as first VL is suppressed.
	• Reduces visits once enrolled in RPCs with a maximum of 2 visits per 6-month scripting cycle.
	• Returns clients in RPCs with VL 50-1000 c/mL to clinician care for TLD switch and VL management
	• Enables multi-month dispensing (MMD) by the facility between clinical visits including for people not eligible for RPCs - children from 6 months of age, post-natal women, people co-infected with TB, with elevated viral loads or re-engaging in care.
	• Introduces a differentiated approach to management on re-engagement.
	• Integrates contraception and TB preventative therapy into all service delivery models
	• Aligns ART visit schedules to TB management and infant EPI schedules to enable integration
	• Incorporates tools for:
	  • enhanced adherence counselling
	  • mental health assessment	