

The National Advisory Group On Immunisation (NAGI)

Terms and Conditions for NAGI

February 2005

An advisory group for the Expanded Programme on Immunisation in South Africa
(EPI-SA)

Making a Difference in the control of Vaccine Preventable Diseases

NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP ON IMMUNISATION (NAGI)

INTRODUCTION

NAGI was established in 1994 as part of the recommendations of the National Expanded Programme on Immunisation in South Africa (EPI-SA) review conducted in 1994. The EPI review was conducted by the National Department of Health (NDOH) in conjunction with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).

It was envisaged that NAGI would be comprised of experts from different fields, which impact on vaccine preventable disease control and on the area of immunisation. The NAGI members are likely to be experts conducting research and or teaching in their specific fields. Experts from NAGI represent the following fields – but not limited to: paediatrics/child health, infectious diseases/communicable disease control, microbiology, virology, immunology/vaccinology, epidemiology and medicine control and registration.

The overall aim of NAGI is to bring together experts from different fields which impact on the area of immunisation who will guide EPI-SA to run an efficient immunisation programme in keeping with current international standards and developments.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To advise the NDOH EPI on the area of new vaccine introduction.
- To facilitate the collation/assembly of necessary literature required for decision making on policy issues (eg. disease burden, cost benefit analysis, effectiveness of a vaccine before new vaccine introduction).
- To help identify critical research needs around immunisation based on EPI needs.
- To assist the NDOH in reviewing and adapting the WHO/UNICEF recommendations/strategies on immunisation on Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) eradication/elimination to the country situation.
- To be instrumental in the development of innovative measures for VPD control that will promote and protect the health of all South Africans.

CONDITIONS FOR NAGI

- NAGI will be an independent advisory body of expertise that does not form part of the structures that relate to the NDOH.
- NAGI members are nominated for appointment by the Minister based on their field of expertise and on merit.
- NAGI members will serve for a five (5) year period.
- The Minister will appoint the chairperson of NAGI. Should NAGI consider that another person is best suitable for the position of chairperson, a request by NAGI to this effect should be sent to the Minister.
- The Minister retains the right to replace any member who can no longer serve for any reason e.g. relocation, resignation, death etc.
- The Minister retains the right to appoint an additional member to NAGI should any need arise.
- NAGI has the authority to communicate directly (through the chairperson and the Cluster Manager: MCWH & Nutrition) with the Director-General: Health and where necessary with the Minister of Health, through the Director-General: Health.
- NAGI will advise the Department on technical matters.

- NAGI will not advise or direct the NDOH on operational aspects (only on practical aspects of implementation).
- Should NAGI members fail to agree on a matter, a two third (2/3) majority is needed to make a decision, prior to taking recommendations to the Director-General: Health.

The NDOH will budget for and cover all the expenses related to the functioning of NAGI, e.g. travel and subsistence, venue and catering.

REPRESENTATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AT NAGI

- It is desirable that the Director-General: Health attends some of the NAGI meetings to facilitate functioning of NAGI.
- The Cluster Manager: Maternal, Child and Women's Health and Nutrition, will attend all the NAGI meetings, to enable clarification of Departmental matters.
- The Senior EPI Specialist/Technical Support and the National EPI Manager will form the secretariat of NAGI.
- The Director: Child and Youth Health may attend NAGI meetings.
- Frequency of meetings:
 - NAGI will meet twice a year.
 - The chairperson of NAGI will call emergency meetings as the need arises.
 - The venues of the meetings will be mutually agreed upon.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM NAGI

- The Cluster Manager and the EPI unit will present all the recommendations and matters brought up by NAGI to the Director-General: Health for further consideration.
- The Director-General: Health will then take up the recommendations with the relevant structures e.g. the Minister, the Senior Management Team, the Provincial Heads of Health, the National Health Council and other relevant Health administrative structures/bodies.
- The national and the provincial EPI will embark on the implementation of the recommendations once the matter has been considered by the relevant structures and the instructions from the Director-General: Health and the Heads of Health have been received.
- It will be the responsibility of the national and provincial Departments to work out the details of implementation of the NAGI recommendations as these relate to the practical field conditions.
- The NDOH under the leadership of the Director-General: Health will take reasonable measures to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the NAGI which are aimed at better control of VPDs and improvement of immunisation services taking into account the constraints of limited resources.



 DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH

2017-05-09

 DATE