

## Notifiable Medical Conditions in South Africa – improving the current reporting systems in South Africa

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### Phase 1 implementation – June 2017

Notifiable Medical Conditions are diseases that are of public health importance because they pose significant public health risks that can result in disease outbreaks or disease epidemics with high case fatality rates both nationally and internationally. The International Health Regulations, 2005 (IHR) and the National Health Act, 61 of 2003 in South Africa require the rapid detection of public health risks, as well as the prompt risk assessment, notification, verification and response to these risks.

To help achieve the set IHR and National surveillance goals in South Africa, the National Department of Health (NDOH) has directed the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) to develop an integrated Notifiable Medical Conditions (NMC) national surveillance system that builds on existing resources to provide a coordinated approach to the collection, collation, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of public and private sector NMCs in South Africa.

The ultimate goal of the national NMC surveillance system is to provide accurate data required at local level for timely public health response in a co-ordinated manner. Section 90 (1) (j), (k) and (w) of National Health Act, 2003 (Act no.

61 of 2003)) details the legal requirements for surveillance of NMC in South Africa. The list of medical conditions that are stipulated as notifiable is included in both the NMC case notification booklet and the Standard Operating procedures (SOP).

It is with great pleasure that we launch the new and improved Notifiable Medical Conditions Case Notification form and the accompanying Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that comprehensively details how a paper based notification must be done. This form replaces the GW17/5 form and the reporting channels documented in the SOP replaces the current reporting channels. We are printing notification booklets as well as the SOPs and will courier them to you through the Provincial and District Communicable Diseases Control Directorate focal people. If by the 15th of July you haven't received your Health Facility copies, kindly inform us on

**Email:** [NMCsurveillanceReport@nicd.ac.za](mailto:NMCsurveillanceReport@nicd.ac.za)

**Fax:** 086 639 1638.

**NMC hotline** 072 621 3805.

Any other NMC related queries may also be directed to the same contact details given above.