

PREFACE

The management of malaria continues to be a major challenge in South Africa. Favourable climatic conditions, an increase in imported cases, and the ongoing development of parasite and vector resistance to drugs and insecticides respectively, have contributed to an increase in the number of malaria cases in South Africa.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce these guidelines on the treatment of malaria in South Africa.

The **objective** of producing these guidelines is to provide all those involved in the diagnosis and treatment of malaria with a clear and practical guide.

The **outcome** aimed for, is appropriate management of cases of malaria so that malaria morbidity and mortality are reduced.

The **basis** for these guidelines is the World Health Organization's guidelines for the treatment of malaria. An extensive literature survey has been undertaken and a number of treatment regimens were considered. Factors considered in the choice of therapeutic options included; effectiveness, safety, and impact on malaria transmission and on the emergence of resistance in the short to medium term.

The **development** of these guidelines was initiated by the Department of Health and the National Malaria Advisory Group (MAG).

The **contents** deal with the objectives of malaria treatment, the parasite species and risk groups involved, methods for the diagnosis of malaria, and the treatment of both uncomplicated and severe malaria. The treatment of the four *Plasmodium* species infecting man and the treatment of specific risk groups such as pregnant women, infants and young children are discussed. The treatment regimens are provided in table form and the most important adverse effects of the drugs are mentioned in the text. Recommendations for treatment are summarised in a diagram for easy reference.

It is hoped these guidelines will facilitate effective, appropriate and timeous treatment of malaria thereby reducing the burden of the disease in our communities.

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