

Core Module: NCD Epidemiology, Determinants of Health & Implementation

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: 26–30 October 2026

ZQF LEVEL: 8

OBJECTIVE:

To examine the epidemiology of non-communicable diseases and the multi-level determinants that shape their distribution, and connects both to the practical work of implementation. Participants profile the NCD burden in their own country or province using Global Burden of Disease data, and situate local patterns against global trends to inform implementation priority-setting.

This module gives sustained attention to determinants that are commonly overlooked in programme design: the commercial determinants of health, including industry practice and trade and taxation policy as structural drivers of NCDs; and the syndemic interaction between NCDs and infectious disease such as HIV and hypertension, tuberculosis and diabetes which is a defining feature of the Southern African context.

Upon completion of this module, learners will be able to:

- Describe the major NCD categories, their shared behavioural, metabolic and commercial risk factors, and the principal measures of burden, and interpret Global Burden of Disease data for a local setting.
- Analyse the commercial determinants of health as structural drivers of the NCD burden and identify policy-level and implementation-level responses.
- Apply the syndemic framework to NCD–infectious disease interactions in the Southern African context and explain how syndemic clustering amplifies implementation barriers.
- Map determinants of an NCD implementation challenge across individual, health system, and commercial or policy levels.
- Construct a systems diagram of a local NCD health system that makes intersectoral interactions explicit.
- Conduct a structured consultation with a non-health-sector stakeholder and integrate the findings into a determinant analysis.
- Tailor and justify an implementation strategy for each determinant level, with reference to the ERIC taxonomy.

Entry Criteria

A Bachelor's degree (NQF Level 7) in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, environmental health, biomedical sciences, or a related discipline from a recognised institution; or a Level 6 Diploma with at least three years' relevant professional experience in a health service, programme management, or policy role, considered case-by-case under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Current or recent engagement in health service delivery, programme implementation, management, policy, or research is strongly recommended, as assessments draw on participants' own professional contexts.

Certification & Credits

CERTIFICATE LEVEL / TYPE: [To Be Confirmed]

CREDIT VALUE: 7 Credits (ZQF Level 8)

This Core Module, valued at ZAR 6,000 (~EUR 300), is fully funded. There are no course fees during the pilot phase.



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