

Position statement on the prescribing of travel vaccines on NHS prescription

SW London CCGs* do not support the routine prescribing or supply of vaccinations for travel purposes that are not allowed on the NHS⁺, in line with NHS England's national guidance on medicines which should no longer be routinely prescribed



Patients should be charged for these vaccinations and associated costs.

*For details of which travel vaccines are **not** available on the NHS see **Table 1** below.

Rationale

Table 1 details the immunisations that are remunerated and those which are not remunerated by the NHS for patients travelling abroad.¹ For vaccines not available on the NHS for travel, a private prescription should be issued, with patients being charged for these vaccinations and the associated costs (see information on charges below).

Table 1: Summary of travel vaccines that can be prescribed on NHS prescriptions⁺

Available on NHS for travel 	Not available on NHS for travel 
Cholera	Hepatitis B (single agent)
Diphtheria/ Tetanus/ Polio	Yellow fever
Hepatitis A	Japanese B encephalitis
Hepatitis A with typhoid**	Meningitis ACWY (quadrivalent meningococcal meningitis vaccine; A, C, Y and W135)
Typhoid	Rabies
	Tick borne encephalitis

**See guidance for clinicians overleaf.

Adapted from PrescQIPP Bulletin 74: Travel Vaccines (DROP-list), September 2014 Accessed from <https://www.prescqipp.info/newsfeed/bulletin-74-launched-travel-vaccines-drop-list>

References

1. NHS Choices <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Travel-immunisation/Pages/Immunisations.aspx>
2. BMA, Focus on Travel Immunisation, accessed from <https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/service-provision/travel-immunisation> (8th November 2016)
3. GMS Regulations 1st March 2004 (Schedule 2, paragraph 4 and Schedule 5, paragraph 1 (g))
4. BNF October 2016 accessed from <https://www.evidence.nhs.uk/formulary/bnf> (7th November 2016)

Further information available from:

- NHS England. Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs/>. Updated November 2017.

*SWL CCGs (NHS Croydon CCG, NHS Kingston CCG, NHS Merton CCG, NHS Richmond CCG, NHS Sutton CCG and NHS Wandsworth CCG)
position statement on travel vaccines

Guidance and recommendations for clinicians on travel vaccines

- Ensure patients are fully informed of the importance of appropriate travel vaccination in order to reduce the risk of disease.
- Further information on which vaccinations are necessary or recommended for the areas your patients will be visiting are available on these two websites:
 - Fit for Travel (www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/advice.aspx)
 - National Travel Health Network and Centre (www.nathnac.org/travel/index.htm)
- Consider having a practice information leaflet for patients to set out these charges, or provide information on the practice website.
- Alternatively refer patients to a travel clinic; some pharmacies also provide a travel vaccine service.
- Hepatitis B is not commissioned by the NHS as a travel vaccine and should be given separately on a private prescription. Refer to the Green Book for advice and guidance on other uses of hepatitis B.
- Hepatitis A with typhoid is available on NHS. However the booster dosage is not aligned, so consider separate vaccines.

Guidance for patients, carers and guardians

- NHS patients are entitled to receive advice on recommended immunisations and malaria prophylaxis free of charge.²
- For travel vaccines not available on the NHS, a charge may be levied for the following:³
 - The vaccine
 - Administration of the vaccine
 - Writing the private prescription
 - Post vaccination serological testing in the case of hepatitis B administration, if performed for travel reasons
 - Provision of certification of immunisation, for example to confirm meningitis ACWY135 administration
- The level of charge is at the discretion of the practice. In some cases separate vaccinations may be cheaper and more appropriate as they have different booster dosage schedules.⁴
- Travel vaccinations are also available at travel clinics and some pharmacies provide a travel vaccine service.
- Yellow fever vaccines are only available from designated centres. See <http://nathnacyfzone.org.uk/search-centres> for further information.

A patient information leaflet is available: <https://www.prescgipp.info/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-patient-leaflets>

The NHS belongs to YOU, use it responsibly