

Prescribing Guidance: Travel Vaccines and Antimalarials

- NHS RCGG currently spends around £35k per year on travel vaccines and malaria prophylaxis which should **NOT** be prescribed on the NHS.
- Only **SOME** vaccines are available on the NHS because they protect against diseases which represent the greatest risk to public health if brought into the country.
- Provision of travel vaccines **NOT** allowed on the NHS should **ONLY** be through private means (charging for practice stock or private prescription).
- ALL antimalarial medications should **ONLY** be prescribed via private prescription or bought over the pharmacy counter.

CCG will recharge practices for travel vaccinations/antimalarials which are claimed/prescribed under the NHS but should have been given privately.

Travel Vaccines **ALLOWED** on the NHS



The following immunisations for travel are part of additional services under GMS and PMS. Patients should **NOT** be charged a fee for these specified travel immunisations. *If a confirmatory certificate is requested by the patient then the practice may charge for this.*

- **Cholera**
- **Diphtheria, polio and tetanus (combined vaccine)**
- **Hepatitis A (infectious hepatitis)** - first and second/booster dose
- **Typhoid** - first and any booster doses
- **Hepatitis A and typhoid (combined)** - first dose (second dose is Hepatitis A alone)

Hepatitis A and B (combined) vaccination - do **NOT give combined vaccine if patient only needs single component Hepatitis B vaccine.**

Reimbursement - vaccines for these are available at NHS expense in one of two ways:

- Purchased by the practice and personally administered payment claimed through FP34PD.
- Obtained by the patient on NHS FP10 prescription. A prescription charge is payable to the pharmacy (unless the patient is exempt). In this situation no claim for personal administration fees should be made through FP34PD.

Travel Vaccines **NOT ALLOWED** on the NHS



The following immunisations are **NOT** remunerated by the NHS as part of additional services. Patients should be charged a fee for these specified travel immunisations:

- **BCG (tuberculosis)**
- **Hepatitis B (single agent)**
- **Japanese B encephalitis**
- **Meningitis ACWY (quadrivalent vaccine)**
- **Rabies**
- **Tick borne encephalitis**
- **Yellow fever**

Charges

Practices may charge a registered patient for practice stock.

OR

Patient may be given a private prescription.

Charges may be levied for:

- The vaccine (when purchased by the practice stock)
- Writing the private prescription (in this case)
- Administration of the vaccine
- Post vaccination serological testing (in the case of hepatitis B administration if performed for travel reason)
- Provision of certification of immunisation (eg confirmation of Meningitis ACWY135 administration)

Private travel health clinics and some community pharmacies also offer a vaccination service and will charge the patient.

Antimalarials



DoH 1995 (FMSL(95)7) guidance states antimalarials should **NOT** be prescribed on the NHS for prophylaxis.

Practice should issue a private prescription. In this case practices may charge the patient for issuing a private prescription.

Some medicines for the prevention of malaria are available for purchase "over the counter" (OTC) at community pharmacies.

REFERENCES *produced May 2018*

NHS England – *Items which should not be routinely prescribed in primary care* November 2017

BMA - *Focus on travel immunisation* April 2018

PRESCQIPP – *Travel vaccines* September 2014

NHS Choices – *Travel Vaccinations* November 2015