

Travel vaccines which should not be prescribed on the NHS exclusively for the purposes of travel - Quick Reference Guide

NHS England set out in its guidance 'Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Guidance for CCGs' the travel vaccines that should **not** be prescribed on the NHS exclusively for the purpose of travel. NHS prescribing of travel vaccines is a low clinical priority and is only appropriate where the recommended vaccinations appropriate for NHS prescribing are required for the country, region of travel and type of holiday (e.g. urban holiday resort, backpacking to rural areas, adventure travellers).

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/items-which-should-not-be-routinely-prescribed-in-primary-care-guidance-for-ccgs/>

NHS patients are entitled to receive free advice on travel vaccination, however, only some vaccinations required for travel abroad are available on the NHS. **Vaccines which are not remunerated by the NHS therefore SHOULD NOT be prescribed.**

The vaccines listed below should continue to be recommended for travel, but the **individual traveller should bear the cost of the vaccination**. For all other indications, as outlined in Immunisation against Infectious Disease – 'the green book' – the vaccine remains free on the NHS.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book#the-green-book>

- Hepatitis B - when not combined with hepatitis A
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Meningitis ACWY
- Yellow Fever
- Tick-borne encephalitis
- Rabies
- BCG

The remaining four vaccines listed below pose a significant public health risk and therefore may still be administered on the NHS exclusively for the purposes of travel, if clinically appropriate.

- Cholera
- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio
- Hepatitis A - including when combined with typhoid or hepatitis B
- Typhoid

For patients requesting vaccination for occupational health purposes, there is no obligation under the GMS regulations for a practice to provide occupational health services. (Patients are usually referred back to their employers who have a duty of care to arrange vaccinations for this purpose) The responsibility rests with the employer under Health and Safety Legislation, and in occupations where there is risk to health from any form of work related infection it is the employers duty to assess that risk and, if present, to protect the workforce.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/advice/employment/gp-practices/service-provision/hepatitis-b-immunisations>

Guidance for patients, carers and guardians

- Seek travel advice at least 8 weeks before you travel, but even if time is short it's never too late to get advice.
- For the travel vaccines not available on the NHS, a charge may be applied by the GP practice. The level of charge applied is at the discretion of the GP practice.
- Travel vaccinations are also available at travel clinics; and some pharmacies provide a travel vaccine service (via MASTA).
- Advice related to vaccinations, malaria prevention and travel health is also available from:
 - Travel Health Pro (<http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>)
 - NHS Choices (<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions>)
 - Gov.uk- Foreign travel advice (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>)
 - MASTA (<https://www.masta-travel-health.com>) – MASTA has a “Find a Clinic” service on the website to enter postcode and find a travel clinic

Patients can also be referred to yellow fever centres that are local as per the lists on NATHNAC.

Website – <http://nathnac.net/>