

Guidance on vaccines and chemoprophylaxis for travel in primary care

This guidance is intended to be used in conjunction with the table “**Guidance on vaccines and chemoprophylaxis for travel in primary care**” which is an updated version of the Regional guidance issued to practices in May 2003. It is intended to provide guidance on the arrangements for the supply of common vaccines for travel, particularly with reference to the new GMS contract. It should be used in conjunction with other relevant documents such as Immunisation Against Infectious Disease and Health Information for Overseas Travel, MIMS, TRAVAX and MASTA. Funding for vaccines previously claimable under Red Book arrangements now lies within the Global Sum and these vaccines must be provided by the practice without charge to the patient.

This guidance will be reviewed and re-issued as necessary. Further details are available from the Infectious Diseases website www.immunisations.nhs.uk which is accessed via www.dh.gov.uk.

Recording

If the patient refuses immunisation, this should be recorded in the patient's notes.

When administering vaccines, the following should be recorded in the patient's notes:

- the batch number, expiry date and title of the vaccines
- the date of administration
- the dose i.e. first or second booster as appropriate
- in a case where two vaccines are administered in close succession, the route of administration and the injection site of each vaccine
- any contraindications to the vaccination or immunisation and
- any adverse reactions to the vaccine or immunisation

Training

- The contractor shall ensure that all staff involved in administering travel vaccines have up-to-date training in this area, as well as in the recognition and initial treatment of anaphylaxis.

Practices should also **document the source of their travel advice** e.g. Pulse, MIMS etc.

Charging

The advice below has been agreed by GPC, representatives of the 4 Board LMCs and the DHSSPS.

There are some travel vaccinations for which GPs are paid to provide on the NHS. GPs are paid for this work through the global sum and patients CANNOT be charged for the administration of these vaccinations. These vaccines are typhoid, cholera, polio and infective hepatitis (hepatitis A).

All other vaccines can be charged for under Schedule 5 Fees and Charges of the National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004. These vaccines include hepatitis B, Japanese encephalitis, meningococcal vaccine, rabies, tick borne encephalitis and yellow fever.

Can I charge my patients for advice or administration of NHS travel vaccinations?

Whenever a GP gives a vaccination it is good practice to advise the patient on the efficacy /usefulness of the vaccine, and any other protection that may be advisable, and to discuss relevant side-effects or concerns the patient may have. This advice should be accepted as part of the normal process in the provision of NHS travel vaccines.

Therefore patients cannot be charged for advice in relation to vaccines available on the NHS, nor can they be charged for the administration of these vaccines.

Can I charge my patients for private travel vaccinations?

In theory, patients could be charged 3 fees for travel vaccines not prescribable on the NHS- a fee for writing the prescription, a fee for advice and a fee for administration. However, as NHS vaccines will frequently be given at the same time as private vaccines, and it is difficult to separate NHS work from private in such a case, GPC recommend a single charge for the issue of the private prescription for the travel vaccine and that this cost should include the time for advice and administration.

Can I charge for prescribing or providing malaria prophylaxis?

Providing advice to patients on malaria prophylaxis can also be charged under schedule 5.