



Position Statement on the provision of Travel Vaccines and Malaria Prophylaxis on the NHS in East Lancs and BwD

East Lancs and BwD Commissioning Groups do not support the prescribing of any vaccine listed under point two (below) or the combined Hep A/Hep B vaccine for the purpose of travel. Provision of these items should be through private arrangements.

- Annually £5.3 million (ePACT April 2015) is spent nationally on vaccines that are potentially not suitable to be prescribed on the NHS as they are mainly used for travel.¹
- East Lancs and BwD CCG currently spend in the region of £120,000 a year on vaccines that potentially should not be prescribed on the NHS.
- There is confusion regarding the provision and charging for vaccinations for patients in at-risk groups, prior to travel and for occupational reasons.
- NHS patients are entitled to receive free advice on travel vaccinations and malaria prophylaxis, however only some vaccinations required for travel are available on the NHS.²

1. Travel vaccinations that CAN be given as part of NHS provision²

The following immunisations for travel are part of additional services under General Medical Services (GMS) and Personal Medical Services (PMS). Patients should **not** be charged a fee for these specific travel vaccinations if the service is provided to registered patients. Practices can opt out of this provision and refer patients to a travel clinic.

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| Hepatitis A |
| Typhoid |
| Combined hepatitis A and typhoid |
| Tetanus, diphtheria and polio combined vaccine |
| Cholera |

1.1 Reimbursement - one of two ways;

- Purchased by the practice and personally administered payment claimed through FP34PD
- OR**
- Obtained by the patient on 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.



2. Travel vaccinations that CANNOT be given as an NHS service

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| Hepatitis B (single agent) |
| Meningitis ACWY |
| Yellow Fever |
| Japanese B encephalitis |
| Tick bourne encephalitis |
| Rabies |

- Practices may therefore charge a registered patient for the immunisation if requested for travel.
- The patient may be given a private prescription to obtain the vaccines or they may be charged for stock purchased and held by the practice.
- Practices should provide written information on the immunisation schedule proposed and the charges invoiced at the outset.
- An FP10 must not be used to provide these services.

Whilst the combined hepatitis A/hepatitis B vaccine is prescribable on the NHS, hepatitis B is not commissioned as a travel vaccine.¹ Resultantly we do not support the prescribing of the combined vaccine for travel purposes. Any traveller requiring a hepatitis B vaccine should receive this privately as a single agent and not in combination with hepatitis A.

2.1 Charges ²

For travel vaccines not available on the NHS a charge may be levied for;

- 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

The level of charges should be determined by the practice; it might be advisable to have a practice leaflet for patients to set out these charges.²

References:

1. PrescQIPP: [Travel](#) Vaccines bulletin 74, September 2014
2. British Medical Association: [Focus](#) on travel immunisations, November 2012
3. Department of Health: The [Green Book](#), September 2013

Acknowledgement Medicines Management Team, Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG,