

TRAVEL VACCINE PATIENT INFORMATION



This leaflet explains why some vaccinations are not available for travel purposes on the NHS and how they can be obtained.

If you are planning to travel outside the UK, you may need to be vaccinated against some of the diseases found in other parts of the world. Travel vaccines which are available on the NHS include Cholera, Typhoid, Hepatitis A and Diphtheria/Tetanus/Polio (triple vaccine).

Many vaccines for travel are not covered by NHS policy and so GP practices are obliged to prescribe them privately if necessary. This includes vaccines such as Hepatitis B, Rabies and Meningitis ACWY*.

* Meningitis ACWY provides protection against infections caused by four different meningococcal bacteria groups (A, C, W and Y).

Travel vaccine charges can include:

- Fee for writing a private prescription
- Dispensing fee, including cost of the vaccine
- Fee for administering the vaccination
- Fee for certificate of vaccination
- Fee for testing for immunity

There is no standard fee and different GP practices may have different charges.

How to get the vaccine

Some GP practices do not keep travel vaccines in stock; therefore you may have to get a private prescription from your GP and take it to a community pharmacy to be dispensed.

The pharmacy will charge for dispensing the prescription based on the cost of the vaccine. This may be substantially more than an NHS prescription charge and costs can vary between different pharmacies.

You may want to ask different pharmacies for a few quotes before choosing where to have your prescription dispensed.

Where to get the vaccine

Travel vaccines can be obtained from Travel Clinics, GP Practices and some pharmacies.

Additional Information



NHS Choices provides health advice for travellers, including:

- How to obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).
- How to get medical treatment abroad and information on staying healthy while away.

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Travel-immunisation/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

General advice on travel health and recommendations for medicines can also be found at:

Fit for Travel

<http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/advice.aspx>

MASTA

<https://www.masta-travel-health.com/>

World Health Organisation (WHO)

<http://www.who.int/topics/travel/en/>

These websites could be used in-conjunction with advice from your GP practice and Community pharmacy.