

Fees and charges for vaccines for persons travelling abroad

The following general points should be noted:-

1. Patients cannot be charged for vaccinations which attract a fee within GMS.
2. Practices may charge a fee for treatment consisting of an immunisation for which no remuneration is payable and which is requested in connection with travel abroad (cost of vaccine + VAT + an additional amount for providing the service)
3. Practices may not charge for advice given in relation to the administration of vaccines or for advice relating to the health risks of foreign travel and information on minimising those risks.
4. Transactions for each individual vaccine must not mix "private" with "NHS" i.e. charging the patient and submitting an FP10
5. Patients may be charged for private prescriptions to cover drugs which may be needed whilst abroad eg antibiotics or antihistamines.
6. Patients may be charged for private prescriptions for POM malaria prophylaxis (mefloquine, Malarone). They should be advised to buy other agents eg chloroquine, proguanil over the counter.
7. Advice about doses, boosters etc should be read in conjunction with the latest Patient Group Directions and "Green Book"
8. This information does not cover vaccines within the childhood immunisation schedules.

| Vaccination | Within GMS | Permissible to charge | Comments |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| No charge to patient | | | |
| Polio, Tetanus and Diphtheria | Yes | No | Initial and booster doses may be administered at NHS expense. |
| Hepatitis A, All doses | Yes | No | Initial and booster doses may be administered at NHS expense. If Hepatitis B is also needed, please do not administer Hepatitis A using the combination vaccine as hepatitis B is chargeable |
| Typhoid | Yes | No | Typhoid vaccine may be given to persons travelling abroad, outside Europe except Canada, USA, Australia and New Zealand. Europe includes Cyprus and Turkey. Primary course 1 dose; booster after 3 years. |
| Hepatitis A with typhoid | Yes | No | Primary course - one dose; booster dose of Hepatitis A after 6 to 12 months to give ten year's protection from Hepatitis A. Revaccinate with single dose of typhoid every three years if still at risk. |

Vaccines charged to patient

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hepatitis B (travel) | No | Yes | Not to be given on NHS for travel. Patient to be charged. NB. Health service employees should not be charged for Hepatitis B given for occupational risk. Other employees should pay and reclaim costs from their employer or attend their own relevant occupational health service. |
| Hepatitis A and B | Not to be used. Please administer single antigens. Hepatitis A vaccine free of charge but Hepatitis B chargeable | | |
| Meningitis A and C | No | Yes | Not to be given on NHS for travel. Patient to be charged. |
| Meningitis ACWY | No | Yes | Not to be given on NHS for travel. Patient to be charged. |
| Rabies | No | Yes | Not to be given on NHS for travel. Patient to be charged. Recommended for travellers to enzootic areas on long journeys to areas out of reach of immediate medical attention |
| Japanese encephalitis | No | Yes | Not to be given on NHS for travel. Patient to be charged. |
| Tick borne encephalitis | No | Yes | Not to be given on NHS for travel. Patient to be charged. |
| Yellow fever | No | Yes | Not to be given on NHS for travel. Patient to be charged. International certificate of vaccination may be required. |

Original guidance compiled May 2005 in accordance with regulations in force at the time and in consultation with Dr P Roblin, Bucks LMC. Pharmaceutical Advisers, Milton Keynes PCT.
Current revision April 2017