

Travel Vaccinations





If you are thinking of travelling outside the UK for a holiday or work, start preparing for your trip, especially long trips, at least eight weeks before you go. But even if time is short it is never too late to get travel health advice.

Where can I get information?

You can get advice on travel vaccinations and general travel health advice from community pharmacies, your GP practice and private travel clinics.

You can also access travel health advice from:

- Travel Health Pro www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries
- Fit for Travel www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/advice
- NHS Choices www.nhs.uk/conditions
- Gov.uk – Foreign travel advice www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

You may need to protect yourself against some of the serious diseases found in other parts of the world. You should find out if you need travel vaccines and make sure your vaccinations are up to date.

Which travel vaccines can be provided by my GP?

These travel vaccinations can be given by your GP practice under the NHS:

- hepatitis A vaccine (monovalent vaccine)
- combined hepatitis A and typhoid vaccine
- typhoid vaccine
- combined tetanus, diphtheria and polio vaccine
- cholera vaccine

Your GP practice may give you the vaccine from vaccine stock they keep in the practice. If your GP practice does not keep the vaccine in stock they may issue you with an NHS prescription to take to a pharmacy.

If you usually pay for your prescriptions, the standard NHS prescription charge will apply.

Which travel vaccines will I need to pay for privately?

You will need to pay privately to obtain the following vaccinations for travel purposes:

- hepatitis B vaccine (monovalent vaccine and combination vaccine with hepatitis A)
- meningitis ACWY135 vaccine
- yellow fever vaccine
- Japanese B encephalitis vaccine
- tick-borne encephalitis vaccine
- rabies vaccine

NHS Southwark CCG no longer supports the routine prescribing of the above vaccinations on the NHS, for travel abroad. This will standardise local prescribing practice in NHS services.

If your GP practice provides the above vaccinations through a private service you may be charged a fee for the following depending on the service provided. For example:

- cost of the vaccine, if the practice vaccine stock is used
- being given the vaccine
- writing a private prescription to get a vaccine from the community pharmacy



What other charges will be there be?

There may be further charges after vaccination depending on where you are travelling. For example:

- if post-vaccination serological (blood) testing is required e.g. in the case of the hepatitis B vaccine
- if a certification of immunisation is required for travel e.g. confirmation of meningitis ACWY135 vaccine or yellow fever vaccine

The fee charged is up to the GP practice. Ask your GP practice for information on their fees.

If a private prescription is provided, you will then be charged by the community pharmacy for the vaccine(s). You can compare prices charged between community pharmacies as these vary.

Alternatively, you can visit a private travel health clinic to obtain these prescription only travel vaccines. Some community pharmacies also provide private travel health services. There will be a charge.

It is important to consider the cost of travel vaccines when budgeting for your trip abroad.