

Lambeth Position Statement for Prescribing Malaria Prophylaxis Medicines and Selected Vaccines on the NHS for Travel Abroad

NHS South East London Integrated Care Board (SEL ICB) - Lambeth **does not support** the prescribing of medication for malaria prophylaxis (prevention) and selected vaccines on the NHS locally, for travel abroad.

Malaria Prophylaxis

Provision of malaria prophylaxis medication in Primary Care

In line with our local consultation, to stop offering NHS prescriptions for malaria prophylaxis for travel abroad as NHS Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group in July 2017, Lambeth does not support the routine prescribing of medication for malaria prophylaxis. Local prescribing practice is in line with national prescribing practice and guidance issued by the Department of Health in February 1995 (FHSL (95)7) which stated that medicines for malaria prevention should no longer be prescribed on an NHS prescription.

Some malaria prophylaxis medicine can be purchased over the counter from a pharmacy without a prescription and others must be prescribed on a **private** prescription before purchase.

Malaria prophylaxis medicine	How it can be obtained
Chloroquine	available to buy over-the-counter
Atovaquone with proguanil	available to buy over-the-counter subject to sales conditions and available through private prescription
Mefloquine	available through private prescription
Doxycycline	available through private prescription

Travel Vaccines

Which travel vaccines are available on the NHS?

In line with [NHS England Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: policy guidance](#), the following vaccines are **NOT available** for free on the NHS for the purposes of travel:

- Hepatitis B (monovalent vaccine and combination vaccine with hepatitis A)
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Meningitis ACWY
- Yellow Fever
- Tick-borne encephalitis
- Rabies
- BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin)

The following vaccinations are available for free on the NHS for the purposes of travel:

- Polio (given as a combined diphtheria/tetanus/polio jab)
- Typhoid
- Hepatitis A
- Cholera

Can the combined hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine be prescribed on the NHS for travel?

The combined hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine can be prescribed on the NHS because it contains hepatitis A. **However**, because hepatitis B is not commissioned by the NHS as a travel vaccine, NHS SEL ICB (Lambeth) does not support the routine prescribing of this combination vaccine on an NHS prescription for the purposes of travel. This is in line with our local consultation to stop offering selected vaccinations on the NHS for travel as NHS Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group in July 2017.

Patients requiring both hepatitis A and B for travel purposes should receive the vaccines separately, receiving the hepatitis A vaccine on an NHS prescription and the hepatitis B vaccine on a private prescription. If the patient requests the combined vaccine for the purposes of travel, this **should not be** prescribed on an NHS prescription, a private prescription should be provided.

How to manage a request for malaria prophylaxis medication or a travel vaccine that is NOT available for free on the NHS for travel abroad

NHS patients are entitled to free advice on [malaria prevention](#) and [travel vaccination](#).

In line with the NHS Standard General Medical Services (GMS) contract, Personal Medical Services (PMS) Agreement, [British Medical Association \(BMA\) Prescribing in General Practice guidance](#) and the [BMA Focus on travel immunisations guidance](#), GP practices may charge a fee for prescribing malaria prophylaxis medication on a private prescription and for travel vaccines that are not available for free on the NHS for travel abroad.

For travel vaccines this could cover practice vaccine stock, administration of the vaccine and/or providing a private prescription. The individual patient will need to bear these costs.

If the practice does not wish to provide a private service for malaria prevention medicines or travel vaccinations not available on the NHS, patients should be advised that they may obtain travel advice, malaria prevention medicines and/or travel vaccinations from a pharmacy offering travel healthcare services or a private travel clinic.

General information and resources to support people with malaria prevention and travel vaccinations

- Travel Health Pro website <https://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/>
- Gov.uk foreign travel advice web page <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>
- NHS Website (Malaria and travel vaccinations) <http://www.nhs.uk/>
- NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries (Malaria and Travel immunisations) <https://cks.nice.org.uk/>
- PrescQIPP Patient information – changes to travel vaccines prescribing <https://www.prescqipp.info/media/1388/patient-information-changes-to-travel-vaccines-prescribing.pdf>
- Immunisation Against Infectious Disease – the Green Book <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>
- Public Health England Malaria Prevention Guidelines and Patient Information Leaflets <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/malaria-guidance-data-and-analysis#travel-advice-leaflets>

References:

- NHS Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body, 05 July 2017 - Proposals for local guidance on NHS prescribing in Lambeth. *Papers available on request.*
- NHS England and Improvement Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: Policy guidance, August 2023. Last updated October 2023. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/items-which-should-not-routinely-be-prescribed-in-primary-care-policy-guidance/>
- Department of Health Family Health Services Letter [FHSL (95) 7]. Malaria Prophylaxis: Regulation permitting GPs to charge for prescribing or providing anti-malarial drugs, February 1995. [https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20030731083224/http://www.info.doh.gov.uk:80/doh/coin4.nsf/page/FHSL-\(95\)7?OpenDocument](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20030731083224/http://www.info.doh.gov.uk:80/doh/coin4.nsf/page/FHSL-(95)7?OpenDocument)
- Malaria prophylaxis, NICE Clinical Knowledge Summaries. Last Revised January 2024. <https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/malaria-prophylaxis/>
- Bulletin 196: Travel vaccines (DROP-List), PrescQIPP. Last updated July 2018. <https://www.prescqipp.info/umbraco/surface/authorisedmediasurface/index?url=%2fmedia%2f3530%2fb196-travel-vaccines-31.pdf>
- NHS Standard General Medical Services contract 2020, NHS England and NHS Improvement. Last updated December 2020. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/standard-general-medical-services-contract/>
- NHS Standard Personal Medical Services Agreement, NHS England and NHS Improvement. Last updated December 2020. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/standard-personal-medical-services-agreement/>
- NHS Lambeth Clinical Commissioning Group Position Statements for Prescribing Malaria Prevention Medicines on the NHS for Travel Abroad & Prescribing Selected Vaccines on the NHS for Travel Abroad. Published September 2017, last updated January 2018. *Position Statements available on request.*