

General travel health

- If you have any doubts about the quality of tap water, ensure that you drink, wash and clean your teeth with bottled water, or water that has been boiled or sterilised. Where possible, eat fresh food that has been thoroughly cooked. Shellfish should never be eaten raw, and avoid salad, fruit or ice cubes that you have not prepared yourself.
- If you do get acute diarrhoea, drink lots of fluids to avoid dehydration. You may wish to bring hydration drinks with you on holiday and you can buy these as sachets from your pharmacy and add them to water. You should eat as soon as you can. Anti-diarrhoea medicines can be taken to relieve symptoms of acute diarrhoea and these can also be bought at your pharmacy.
- Be sensible with alcohol when abroad and avoid dehydration in hot climates by drinking as much fluid as possible.
- Avoid over-exposure to the sun, which is strongest between 11am and 3pm.
- Use insect repellent to avoid insect bites. Apply repellent on top of sun block when both are being used.



HSC Health and Social
Care Board

For further information
contact a member of
your Prescribing Team.

Travelling Abroad

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Vaccine and Health Advice

If you are travelling abroad you should visit your practice nurse or doctor to find out which vaccines you need.

Ideally this should be **at least 3 months** before you travel. Do not leave it until the week before you go, as many vaccines need to be given a few weeks before travelling to ensure their full effectiveness.

Your practice nurse or doctor will tell you which vaccines you need to get before travelling. Some of these vaccines will be available on the NHS but others are not.

GP's can give the following vaccines on the NHS:

- Diphtheria
- Hepatitis A
- Polio
- Tetanus
- Typhoid

GP's cannot give the following vaccines on the NHS:

- Hepatitis B
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Meningococcal
- Rabies
- Tick Borne Encephalitis
- Yellow Fever

For vaccines that are not available on the NHS, your GP must write these vaccines on a **private prescription**.

This should then be brought to a community pharmacy where it can be dispensed. A **private prescription** will usually be more expensive than a normal prescription charge. The doctor or nurse can also charge you for the administration of these vaccines.

Storage of Vaccines

The vaccines should be stored appropriately, as advised by the community pharmacist until your appointment with your doctor or nurse who will then administer the vaccine.

Protection against malaria

If you are travelling to an area where you need to take **medication against malaria**, this must also be written on a **private prescription**.

Some anti-malarial medications can be bought from your pharmacist without a

prescription. Your GP or practice nurse will advise you about the most appropriate preventative treatment for the country you are visiting.

Patients on long-term medication

If you have an illness that means that you regularly need to take medication, please ensure that you have enough with you to last for your whole holiday.

If you are travelling for more than 3 months, you should find a doctor who can continue your care in the country that you are visiting.

Medication for travel abroad or travel kits

If you want to bring medicines on holiday with you that you do not normally take, to use in case you become ill when abroad eg. antibiotics, these are not available on NHS prescription. If necessary your GP may issue a **private prescription**.

