

## VACCINE PRESCRIBING POLICY

This guidance provides advice, recommendations and clarity on prescribing vaccinations under the NHS. It is aimed at primary medical services within the Mid and South Essex Health Care Partnership.

The [Green Book \(immunisation against infectious diseases\)](#) provides advice on the circumstances when vaccination should be offered. This does not necessarily mean the vaccines should be offered under the NHS.

### National immunisation schemes (including vaccination for specific clinical risk groups) NOT FOR TRAVEL

Diseases protected against (vaccine name)	Situations where vaccine is offered free of charge under the NHS global sum	Method for claiming payment for cost of vaccine under global sum
Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib) and hepatitis B (DTaP/IPV/Hib/HepB)	National childhood immunisation scheme	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio (DTaP/IPV)	National childhood immunisation scheme	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
Pertussis (given as combination vaccine) (dTaP/IPV)	Pregnant women national immunisation scheme	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b and meningococcal group C (Hib/MenC)	National childhood immunisation scheme	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
Hepatitis B	Immunisation offered under the NHS in line with <a href="#">Green Book chapter 18</a>	FP34
Cancers caused by human papillomavirus (HPV)	National childhood immunisation scheme	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
COVID-19	Immunisation offered under the NHS in line with <a href="#">Green Book chapter 14a</a> . See also additional advice on COVID-19 vaccination and travel, below.	Free supply through Foundry. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
Influenza – adults (Inactivated vaccine)	Immunisation offered under the NHS on an annual basis for those aged 65 years and over or those aged under 65 years in a risk category	FP34
Influenza – paediatrics (Live attenuated influenza nasal vaccine, LAIV)	Immunisation (as nasal spray) offered under the NHS on an annual basis for paediatrics in line with <a href="#">Green Book chapter 19</a> .	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
Influenza – paediatrics (Inactivated vaccine)	Immunisation offered under the NHS on an annual basis for paediatrics in line with <a href="#">Green Book chapter 19</a> but in whom the nasal influenza vaccine is contraindicated or under 2 years of age.	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34



<b>Measles, mumps and rubella (MMR)</b>	National childhood immunisation scheme	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
<b>Meningococcal groups A, C, W and Y (MenACWY)</b>	National childhood immunisation scheme	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
<b>Meningococcal group B (MenB)</b>	National childhood immunisation scheme	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
<b>Pneumococcal 13 serotypes (Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, PCV)</b>	National childhood immunisation scheme	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
<b>Pneumococcal 23 serotypes (Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine; PPV)</b>	Immunisation offered under the NHS in line with <a href="#">Green Book chapter 25</a>	FP34
<b>Rotavirus gastroenteritis (Rotavirus)</b>	National childhood immunisation scheme	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
<b>Shingles</b>	Immunisation offered under the NHS in line with <a href="#">Green Book chapter 28a</a>	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
<b>Tetanus, diphtheria and polio (Td/IPV)</b>	National childhood immunisation scheme	Free supply through ImmForm. Do NOT claim on FP10 or FP34
<b>Tuberculosis (BCG vaccine)</b>	Immunisation offered under the NHS in line with <a href="#">Green Book chapter 32</a>	FP10

## Travel vaccinations

The [British Medical Association](#) (BMA) has provided guidance on the current regulations for travel vaccines and the responsibility of its members in providing travel care services for their patients.

Certain vaccines are available on the NHS for travel as part of additional services under the General Medical Services and Personal Medical Services contracts. Patients should not be charged a fee for these specified travel immunisations if a service is provided to registered patients. Practices can opt out of providing a travel vaccination service and refer patients to a travel clinic. These vaccines are usually free because they protect against diseases thought to represent the greatest risk to public health if they were brought into the country. Some vaccines are not available on the NHS for travel and can be given as a private service.

NHS patients are entitled to receive advice on recommended vaccines for travel free of charge.

### Vaccinations available at NHS expense

The following travel vaccines are available at NHS expense and registered patients must not be charged a fee for administering the vaccine:

<b>Diseases protected against (vaccine name)</b>	<b>Situations where vaccine is offered free of charge under the NHS global sum</b>	<b>Method for claiming payment for cost of vaccine under global sum</b>
<b>Cholera</b>	In line with <a href="#">Green Book</a> / <a href="#">Travel Health Pro (NaTHNaC)</a> advice	FP10



<b>Diphtheria, tetanus and polio (Td/IPV)</b>	In line with <a href="#">Green Book</a> / <a href="#">Travel Health Pro (NaTHNaC)</a> advice	FP10
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	In line with <a href="#">Green Book</a> / <a href="#">Travel Health Pro (NaTHNaC)</a> advice	FP34
<b>Hepatitis A and typhoid combined</b>	In line with <a href="#">Green Book</a> / <a href="#">Travel Health Pro (NaTHNaC)</a> advice	FP34
<b>Typhoid polysaccharide</b>	In line with <a href="#">Green Book</a> / <a href="#">Travel Health Pro (NaTHNaC)</a> advice	FP34

These vaccines are available via two different routes:

- The vaccine is purchased by the practice, administered at the practice and a 'personally administered' payment is claimed through FP34.
- The vaccine is prescribed on FP10 prescription for the patient to collect from a community pharmacy and bring to the practice for administration. A prescription charge is payable to the pharmacy unless the patient is exempt. In this situation no claim for 'personal administration' fees should be made through FP34.

Vaccinations not available at NHS expense

The following travel vaccines are not available at NHS expense **when exclusively given for travel purposes:**

<b>Diseases protected against (vaccine name)</b>	<b>Situations where vaccine is offered free of charge under the NHS Global sum</b>	<b>Method for claiming payment for cost of vaccine under global sum</b>
<b>Hepatitis B (single agent)</b>	Not provided on the NHS. Individual traveller will need to bear the cost of the vaccination	Not for supply under the NHS
<b>Hepatitis A and B combined</b>	Travellers requiring Hepatitis A – see above under 'vaccinations available at NHS expense'. The prescribing of this combined vaccine for travel is not locally recommended. A patient requiring Hepatitis B for travel should receive this as a separate component and treated as a private service.	Not for supply under the local NHS
<b>Japanese encephalitis</b>	Not provided on the NHS. Individual traveller will need to bear the cost of the vaccination	Not for supply under the NHS
<b>Meningococcal meningitis A, C, W135 &amp; Y</b>	Not provided on the NHS. Individual traveller will need to bear the cost of the vaccination	Not for supply under the NHS
<b>Rabies</b>	Not provided on the NHS. Individual traveller will need to bear the cost of the vaccination	Not for supply under the NHS
<b>Tick-borne encephalitis</b>	Not provided on the NHS. Individual traveller will need to bear the cost of the vaccination	Not for supply under the NHS
<b>Tuberculosis (BCG vaccine)</b>	Not provided on the NHS. Individual traveller will need to bear the cost of the vaccination	Not for supply under the NHS
<b>Yellow fever</b>	Not provided on the NHS. Individual traveller will need to bear the cost of the vaccination	Not for supply under the NHS

### Charges for private provision

For travel vaccines not available on the NHS, the practice may charge the registered patient for:

- The vaccine (for stock purchased and held by the practice).
- Administration of the vaccine.
- Provision of a private prescription (if a private prescription is provided to obtain the vaccine).

Patients should be advised to compare prices as there may be variation in the amount that individual pharmacies will charge to supply the vaccine. Alternatively, practices may choose to buy in the vaccine directly and charge patients for the cost of the vaccine.

Possible charges after vaccination include:

- Post-vaccination serological testing in the case of Hepatitis B administration, if performed for travel reasons.
- Provision of certification of immunisation (for example, confirmation of Meningitis ACWY135 administration).

The level of charges should be determined by the practice. It is advisable to develop a practice policy which is available to patients, for example, in the form of a leaflet or as a section on the practice website.

Where a private service has been provided, the practice must NOT claim the cost of the vaccine using an FP10 or FP34.

NHS PGDs cannot be used for the administration of travel vaccines that are provided as a private service.

### COVID-19: considerations for travel

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has severely disrupted international travel. Official guidance can change at short notice to reflect required changes in pandemic response and this may impact planned travel. Countries can lift or implement travel bans or quarantine measures to curtail the spread of COVID-19. Patients should refer to government guidance for travel restrictions, including testing and quarantine rules when travelling abroad from England, and check foreign travel advice for the country that is being visited.

Travel insurance is highly recommended. Patients should always check their policy for exclusions as some policies may not cover claims related to COVID-19. Travel advice changes at short notice, therefore, it is advised that the policy includes cover if the return trip is cancelled or postponed.

Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine for the purpose of travel is not in line with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and as such will not be provided. Second doses or booster doses should not be offered earlier than the recommended schedule for travel purposes. If a patient is moving abroad for longer than three months, they cease to be an NHS patient. Under pandemic arrangements patients are able to receive a vaccine abroad if they meet the requirements within the country being visited.

### **Vaccination for occupational risk**

It is the British Medical Association's (BMA) view that **there is no obligation under the GMS regulations for a practice to provide occupational health services for their patients**. That responsibility rests with the employer under Health and Safety Legislation. The same applies for healthcare students, who often request vaccination for occupational risk (e.g. hepatitis B) prior to, or on entering, a course.

It is worth noting that a practice can choose to enter into a private contract with an employer or educational institution to provide this service but **cannot accept a fee from their registered patients, only from the employer/institution**.

Where there seems to be an occupational health risk but no employer to assess and manage this, a practice may wish to:



- Refer such patients to other practices where they can be offered this occupational care as a private service (where the patient may consider the costs as a legitimate business expense).
- Provide the immunisation as an NHS service for free by providing the vaccine on an FP10 (the administration costs and practice time **cannot** be charged to the patient under these circumstances)

Both routes are acceptable and will depend on the volumes involved and the practice’s own agreed policy.

**Note that practices cannot under any circumstances charge their own NHS patients for any Occupational Health service or any vaccine cost which is provided in connection with this service.**

<b>References</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PrescQIPP. Travel vaccines (July 2018): <a href="https://www.prescqipp.info/umbraco/surface/authorisedmediasurface/index?url=%2fmedia%2f3530%2fb196-travel-vaccines-31.pdf">https://www.prescqipp.info/umbraco/surface/authorisedmediasurface/index?url=%2fmedia%2f3530%2fb196-travel-vaccines-31.pdf</a></li> <li>▪ BMA. Travel vaccinations (updated 7 September 2020): <a href="https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/vaccinations/travel-vaccinations">https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/vaccinations/travel-vaccinations</a></li> <li>▪ BMA. Hepatitis B vaccinations (updated 7 September 2020): <a href="https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/vaccinations/hepatitis-b-vaccinations">https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/gp-practices/vaccinations/hepatitis-b-vaccinations</a></li> <li>▪ GOV.UK. Travel abroad from England during coronavirus (COVID-19) (last updated 4 October 2021): <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19</a></li> <li>▪ NHS. Travel vaccinations (last reviewed 10 December 2018): <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations/</a></li> <li>▪ GOV.UK. Immunisation against infectious disease-The Green Book (last updated 27 November 2020): <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book</a></li> <li>▪ GOV.UK. Immunisation (last updated 18 October 2021): <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation">https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation</a></li> <li>▪ GOV.UK. Complete routine immunisation schedule (last updated 10 Jul 2020): <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-complete-routine-immunisation-schedule</a></li> </ul>
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