

## **INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS**

### **TRAVEL VACCINATIONS & MEDICINES FOR TRAVEL**

The information set out below explains the current legislation in force with regard to which components are available free of charge within the National Health Service (NHS) and which components require a charge to be paid by the patient. These regulations are set out in Paragraph 24 of the General Medical Services Regulations (2004).

The NHS has divided travel vaccinations into 2 groups

1) Allowable i.e. free of charge to the patient (*for public health reasons*)

- Tetanus
- Typhoid
- Hepatitis **A**
- Polio
- Cholera

2) **Not** allowable i.e. to be paid for by the patient

- Hepatitis **B**
- Yellow Fever
- Meningitis ACW & Y
- Japanese B encephalitis
- Rabies
- Tick-borne encephalitis

If you require Group 2) vaccinations then a practice can charge a fee for this service and will expect payment prior to the first vaccination.

Prescription medicines used for the prevention of malaria while travelling are not allowable within the NHS and so a charge is due; this reflects the cost of the medication and a private dispensing fee. These preventative treatments are commenced prior to departure and continue for a time after return home. Please remember to take the recommended precautions to minimise the risk of mosquito bites when in malaria prone areas; preventative drugs do not provide a guarantee against infection.

If you require a prescription medication to be in your possession for use abroad solely in anticipation of the onset of an ailment for which you are not requiring treatment before travel then a charge will be payable for the medication. Examples of such prescription medications include Diamox for the prevention of altitude sickness and ciprofloxacin for bacterial enteritis (bacterial diarrhoea).

Prescription drugs dispensed to patients in these circumstances are *not* allowable within the NHS – the charge levied by the Practice is *instead* of the NHS prescription charge and reflects the cost of the medication and a private dispensing fee.