

MEDICINES MANAGEMENT GUIDE TO PRESCRIBING

Section 8 – Vaccines

8. VACCINES

Table of Contents

8.1. Vaccine information sources	2
8.1.1. The Green Book.....	2
8.1.2. “Vaccine Update” newsletter.....	2
8.1.3. Patient Group Directions (PGDs)	2
8.2. Travel advice for health professionals.....	2
8.3. Contractual and service information	2
8.4. Supply and reimbursement arrangements	3
8.4.1. National Immunisation Programmes	3
8.4.2. Travel Vaccinations	3
8.4.3. Vaccination for specific clinical risk groups (NOT TRAVEL).....	3
8.4.4. Vaccination for occupational risk.....	4
8.4.5. Private supply	4
8.4.6. Additional Sources of information from the BMA and the GPC	5

8.1. VACCINE INFORMATION SOURCES

8.1.1. The Green Book

The Green Book has the latest information on vaccines and vaccination procedures, for vaccine preventable infectious diseases in the UK:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>

8.1.2. “Vaccine Update” newsletter

Health professionals can keep up to date with updates to the Green Book and the latest advice for vaccines and immunisations through the UK Health Security Agency 'Vaccine Update' newsletter. Subscription is free of charge and can be received via monthly email.

8.1.3. Patient Group Directions (PGDs)

Patient Group Direction (PGD) templates have been developed for all vaccinations included within the national immunisation programmes provided on the NHS:

[Immunisation patient group direction \(PGD\) templates - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Note: NHS PGDs must not be used for the administration / supply to patients on a private basis – see [section 8.4.5](#)

8.2. TRAVEL ADVICE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Guidance for Health Professionals on risk assessment for travellers, advised vaccinations, antimalarial regimens and other appropriate information is available by logging on to the NaTHNaC website www.nathnac.org

(or the TRAVAX website www.travax.nhs.uk for those practices who have subscribed).

It is for individual practices to decide whether they wish to pay the subscription for TRAVAX (£100 plus VAT*¹ for a GP Practice) or use NaTHNaC which is a freely available website.

8.3. CONTRACTUAL AND SERVICE INFORMATION

The national arrangements for the provision of vaccines and immunisations by General Practice are set out in Part 5 of the Statement of Financial Entitlements (SFE).

The SFE and information pertaining to contractual requirements and service specifications can be found on the Gov.uk website:

[General Medical Services Statement of Financial Entitlements Directions - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

A number of vaccinations and immunisations are provided as **enhanced services**. Each Enhanced Service is defined in a Service Specification, details of which can be found via the NHS England website:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/gp-contract/>

¹ Prices correct as of October 2023 taken from the TRAVAX website <http://www.travax.scot.nhs.uk/about-travax.aspx>

8.4. SUPPLY AND REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The Green Book 'Immunisation against infectious diseases' gives Department of Health advice on the circumstances when patients should be offered vaccination. This does not necessarily mean the vaccines should be offered under the NHS.

A number of vaccinations are available free of charge on the NHS for specific indications/circumstances

These include:

- vaccinations for the National Immunisation Programmes
- some vaccines for travel
- some vaccines for specific at-risk individuals

The purpose of the following sections is to clarify situations where vaccines may be given free of charge under the NHS (paid for under the global sum):

8.4.1. National Immunisation Programmes

- NHS-funded vaccines for many of the National Immunisation Programmes should be obtained by the practice free-of-charge via ImmForm. Under these circumstances, the practice must not claim reimbursement on the FP34 claim form

For a list of vaccines / immunisations included in the National Immunisation Programme please refer to the "Vaccine Guide for Practices" on the [PAD](#)

Note – there have been occasions where practices have inadvertently claimed reimbursement for vaccines that were supplied to them free of charge. Where this occurs, it is often noticed by the Medicines optimisation Team during their routine monitoring of prescribing of ePACT data. Subsequently, the practice may be contacted by a member of the Medicines Optimisation Team for further investigation. If reimbursement has been incorrectly claimed, there will need to be a financial adjustment (administered by NHSBSA Prescription Services) to recover the monies received by the practice.

8.4.2. Travel Vaccinations

- Some NHS-funded vaccines for travel and specific at-risk groups can be purchased in bulk by the practice and reimbursed via a claim on the FP34 form to NHS Prescription Services
- Other NHS-funded vaccines for travel can be prescribed on FP10

For a list of vaccines / immunisations used for Travel purposes please refer to the "Vaccine Guide for Practices" on the [PAD](#)

8.4.3. Vaccination for specific clinical risk groups (NOT TRAVEL)

The Green Book identifies a number of clinical risk groups (outside of the national immunisation schemes) where vaccination is recommended. Please refer to the chapters of the Green Book for further information.

For a list of vaccines / immunisations that apply to specific at-risk groups please refer to the "Vaccine Guide for Practices" on the [PAD](#)

8.4.4. Vaccination for occupational risk

The responsibility for occupational risk vaccination rests with the employer under Health & Safety Legislation.

It is the BMA's view that there is no obligation under the GMS regulations for a practice to provide occupational health services for their patients.

It is worth noting that a practice can choose to enter into a private contract with an employer or medical school but **cannot accept a fee from their registered patients, only from the employer.**

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

8.4.5. Private supply

Vaccines for national immunisation programs should NOT be provided privately to a patient on the practice register. Patients requesting private vaccination should be referred to another practice or centre that is providing a private service.

Under the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 (Part 12, Chapter 3, para 230) **NHS GP practices are not permitted to use NHS PGDs to administer treatment for non-NHS circumstances**

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

Private services for Travel vaccination

There are instances where vaccination is recommended for travel purposes (see Green Book) but the vaccination is not offered free of charge under the NHS Global Sum.

Such vaccinations may be provided as a private service where the practice can charge for:

- The provision of a private prescription OR the supply of a vaccination
- Administration of the vaccine
- Taking bloods, blood tests² and post-vaccination serological testing (in the case of Hep B for travel)
- Provision of certification of immunisation

² Blood tests and pathology services for private patients should be charged to the patient. It is therefore appropriate for practices to indicate to the pathology service that the blood test is being carried out as part of a private episode of care. In doing so, the pathology service provider may levy a charge. Arrangements for this vary locally and depend on the pathology service provider who may charge the referring GP practice or charge the patient directly. Practices who receive the charge for the private pathology service may pass on the cost to the patient

Practices should also give the patient written information on the immunisation schedule proposed and the charges involved at the outset of the process

Local recommendations have been made in relation to the use of **Hepatitis B**, combined **Hepatitis A/B** and **Meningococcal ACWY** for travel. They are non-formulary for the purpose of travel (agreed at the Area Prescribing Committee in Jan 2018).

Where recommended for travel, these vaccines should be prescribed / supplied **privately** – for further information see PAD:

[Profile : Hepatitis B vaccine - Travelling abroad \(res-systems.net\)](#)

[Profile : Hepatitis A & B combined vaccine - Travelling abroad \(res-systems.net\)](#)

[Profile : Meningitis ACWY vaccine - Travelling abroad \(res-systems.net\)](#)

In June 2019, NHS England issued advice that the following vaccines should NOT be prescribed on the NHS exclusively for the purposes of travel:

- Hepatitis B
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Meningitis ACWY
- Yellow fever
- Tick-borne encephalitis
- Rabies
- BCG

Where recommended for travel, the traveller will need to bear the cost of vaccination.

[NHS England » Items which should not routinely be prescribed in primary care: policy guidance](#)

8.4.6. Additional Sources of information

[The Green Book Part 2](#)

[BMA Focus on Travel Immunisation](#)

[Hepatitis B vaccinations \(bma.org.uk\)](#)

[Vaccination and immunisation programmes \(bma.org.uk\)](#)