# Policy Name: Travel Consultation Protocol

## Policy Number: 181

**Clinical Guidelines**

**Aims and Objectives**

1. To increase travellers’ awareness of the diseases and other health risks related to   
   foreign travel, particularly in higher risk countries.
2. To obtain accurate and up to date information to determine the appropriate travel health advice and vaccination(s) for the travellers’ personal health profile and travel itinerary.
3. To use up to date travel health resources including national guidelines and online databases to help decide the appropriate risk management for the individual traveller
4. To deliver appropriate risk management advice on the prevention of disease (including malaria prevention advice where indicated) and also the non-disease health risks related to such travel
5. To administer appropriate travel vaccinations in a safe manner, having made the patient aware of any side effects and obtained the patient’s consent.
6. To work within ‘the code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for nurses and midwives’ from the Nursing and Midwifery Council at all times.

**Target Group**

Patients who attend The Chorley Surgery requesting advice for foreign travel.

**Staff Involved**

*Sister Linda Caunce*

**Available resources**

*Nathnac Information centre*

*Yellow Book*

*Green Book*

**Specified books and references**

1. **The Green Book**

Salisbury D, Ramsey M, Noakes K. eds. *Immunisation against Infectious Disease*. 3rd edn. The Stationery Office, London 2006. Updates available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>

1. **The Yellow Book**

Field VK, Ford L, Hill DR, eds. (2010) *Health Information for Overseas Travel*. National Travel Health Network and Centre, London, UK. [www.nathnac.org](http://www.nathnac.org)

1. **The UK Malaria Guidelines**

Chiodini PL, Field VK, Hill DR, Whitty CJM and Lalloo DG. Guidelines for malaria prevention in travellers from the United Kingdom. London, Public Health England, July 2013. <http://www.malaria-reference.co.uk/>

1. **The RCN Travel Health Forum Competency document**

Chiodini J. Boyne L. Stillwell A. Grieve S. Travel health nursing career and competence development, RCN guidance. RCN: London 2012  <http://www.rcn.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/78747/003146.pdf>

1. **British National Formulary** (latest edition!) [www.bnf.org](http://www.bnf.org)
2. **Online computer database** e.g. TRAVAX - www.travax.nhs.uk and or NaTHNaC [www.nathnac.org](http://www.nathnac.org) (please note, the use of charts published in journals is no longer for the preferable way for providing up to date advice within a consultation, online databases are updated far more regularly and are the recommended option)
3. **A good atlas or online atlas** e.g. [www.maps.google.co.uk](http://www.maps.google.co.uk)
4. **Recommended websites** for up to date information for health care professionals but some useful ones also for travellers e.g.

* **Health Protection Scotland - TRAVAX for Health Care Professional** [www.travax.nhs.uk](http://www.travax.nhs.uk) and their public site [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)
* **National Travel Health Network and Centre** [www.nathnac.org](http://www.nathnac.org)
* **Foreign and Commonwealth Office** <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>

**All links below can also be accessed through** [**www.janechiodini.co.uk**](http://www.janechiodini.co.uk)

**Further Specialist Advice**

1. Health Protection Agency Malaria Reference Laboratory [www.malaria-reference.co.uk](http://www.malaria-reference.co.uk) to download a risk assessment form for completion on your computer. Then fax to 020 7367 0248 to receive a fax back reply within three working days
2. Health Protection Scotland (for TRAVAX users) weekdays 2pm – 4pm Mon. and Wed., Fri. 9.30am – 11.30am Tel: 0141 300 1130
3. National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) 8.30am – 11.45am and 1pm – 3.15 pm weekdays Tel: 0845 602 6712

**Equipment and Stationery**

* Patient Travel Information Form (see policy no.181a)
* List of patient’s immunisation status – on computer / Lloyd George records / other travel clinics attended
* Download appropriate travel sheet from Nathnac site.
* Clinical:- Needles, syringes, gauze swabs
* Emergency box – adrenaline – Chlorphenamine, Hydrocortisone (sodium succinate) etc

**Practice Organisation**

* Reception staff request patients attend the surgery to complete a paper format risk assessment form prior to booking the appointment. Informed to telephone surgery in 1 week.
* Practice nurse assesses information and outlines disease risks which require discussion / prophylaxis. Patient initially given a half hour appointment – schedule discussed if required.
* RCN ‘Competencies: an integrated career and competency framework for nurses in travel health medicine’ used as support material

**Travel Consultation**

***Management of traveller***

* determine and then explain the travel health risks to traveller;
* Discuss sufficient to obtain informed consent to vaccinate; administer vaccines according to patient group direction or patient specific directions.
* document details of vaccines given; give information leaflets.
* document details of malaria prevention advice given (ABCD) including choice of malaria chemoprophylaxis
* complete medical documentation on computer to provide evidence of risk assessment and appropriate management;

***General issues***

* Checking of vaccine stock for next session.

**Review**

These guidelines should be reviewed at least annually to ensure standard practice is the same, contact details and publications are still current.