

## Prescribing of hepatitis B

### **Prescribing of hepatitis B (single agent) and combined Hepatitis A & B is not supported by Basildon and Brentwood CCG and Thurrock CCG for patients travelling**

NHS patients are entitled to receive free advice on travel vaccinations and malaria prophylaxis, however only some vaccinations required for travel are available on the NHS.

Hepatitis B is not currently part of the national immunisation schedule in the UK and hepatitis B vaccine is not commissioned by the NHS as a travel vaccine. It is therefore not prescribable as part of the NHS services and is not remunerated by the NHS as part of additional services provided by GPs.

### **Basildon and Brentwood CCG and Thurrock CCG recommends that, hepatitis B vaccine should not be prescribed on FP10 prescription for travel purposes**

If patients are travelling to an area where hepatitis B is endemic and they are considered to be at HIGH RISK of contracting hepatitis B, they should be strongly encouraged to consider vaccination but this should be provided **privately**.

Combined hepatitis A and B vaccine is not commissioned by the NHS as a travel vaccine; it is therefore not to be provided for travel as an NHS service. Hepatitis A is commissioned by the NHS as a travel vaccine. The combined hepatitis A & B vaccine is prescribable on the NHS because it contains hepatitis A. However, because hepatitis B is not commissioned for travel, BBCCG & TCCG do not support the prescribing of this combination product for travel purposes.

### **Basildon and Brentwood CCG and Thurrock CCG recommends that hepatitis A single vaccine can be provided on the NHS, with hepatitis B being funded privately for patients requiring both vaccines for travel purposes**

Patients with additional lifestyle risk or medical indication are entitled to NHS provision of Hepatitis B whether or not they are travelling. In these circumstances, Hepatitis B should be given as part of their general medical care on the NHS.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Thurrock CCG and Basildon and Brentwood CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, or relevant Medicines Management agreement.

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