



Travel health update

Travel health can be complicated, and advice for health professionals and travellers is ever-changing. In this regular feature, Jane Chiodini seeks out and presents the latest travel advice and information to help you to keep your practice up to date. She also revisits areas of on-going concern, for spot-checks and further clarification

SHAKEN NOT STIRRED

The Meningococcal Group A, C, W135 and Y conjugate vaccine Menveo ▼, which was launched by Novartis Vaccines in the UK in 2010, has recently had a change to section 6.6 of the Summary of Product Characteristics. New instructions state that, when constituting the vaccine, instead of gently shaking the vial, one should 'invert and shake the vial vigorously and then withdraw 0.5ml of reconstituted product. Please note that it is normal for a small amount of liquid to remain in the vial following withdrawal of the dose'. For further information, contact Novartis Vaccines Medical Information on: 08457 451 500. As a new drug, Menveo ▼ has the black triangle label and is currently monitored intensively by the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This is a routine procedure for any new drug on the market. For further details on the Yellow Card Scheme for reporting adverse effects, go to <http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>

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TRANSLATE SERVICE

Last month, news of the wonderful *Migrant Health Guide* was discussed (see www.hpa.org.uk/migranthealthguide). Communication can be a problem, with difficulties in speaking or understanding a foreign language, and this website includes useful information on this topic. I discovered on the site that the search engine Google includes a language translator, which I have since tried out and can highly recommend (www.translate.google.com). It even has a sound icon to allow you to play the translation in the foreign language and the service is fast and efficient.

TRAVEL MEDICINE TRAINING

I undertook my training in travel medicine at the University of Glasgow in 1995 and was in the first group for this prestigious course, the first of its type in the world. Since then it has gone from strength to strength under the leadership firstly of the Scottish Centre for Infection and Environmental Health and then Health Protection Scotland, in conjunction with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RCPSG). From April 2011, the foundation and diploma courses will be held and managed entirely within

RCPSG. The next foundation course, which is ideal for practice nurses with a passion for travel health, will start in May 2011 and some places still remain. For further details contact the course administrator, Lesley Haldane on tel: 0141 227 3227 or email: Lesley.Haldane@rcpsg.ac.uk

YELLOW FEVER NEWSLETTER

The National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) has recently published the February edition of its

yellow fever newsletter, which helps to keep Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres (YFVCs) up to date on all aspects of this topic. It is a useful read, especially with imminent changes to the recommendation for yellow fever vaccine about to be announced.

Hopefully you have already received a copy in the post, but if not, ask your practice manager if they have received it instead. You can also access it in the password-protected YFVC area of the NaThNac website. Go to www.nathnac.org/pro/index.htm, then click on 'Resources for yellow fever vaccination centres'.

