



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

NaTHNaC NEEDS YOUR HELP

Immunisation is a crucial component of travel medicine practice and the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) is carrying out research to assess whether healthcare professionals are aware of the recommended National Minimum Standards for Immunisation Training; find out whether formal training has been accessed; determine the injection techniques used and the level of confidence in using them; and discover if further training is considered necessary to perform less frequently used injection techniques such as intradermal injections. The survey took me less than 10 minutes to complete. Please go to www.nathnac.org to take part – closing date 30 November 2010.

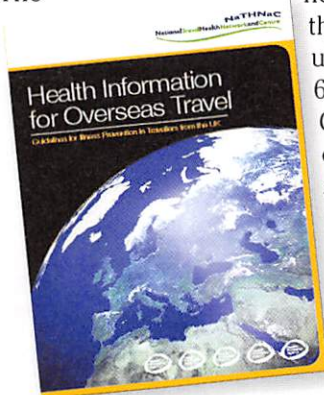
YELLOW BOOK STILL AVAILABLE

Have you got your copy of the 2010 publication *Health Information for Overseas Travel*, also known in the UK as the Yellow Book? Every practice should obtain a copy for use in the day-to-day care of travellers. Yellow Fever Vaccination Centres need to contact the NaTHNaC for a free copy (excluding p&p). Sanofi Pasteur MSD still has a large stock to supply free of charge. To find out more go to www.spmsd.co.uk

VACCINE STORAGE

Vaccine storage standards, especially maintenance of the cold chain, are a key component of immunisation. Did your

practice receive a Rapid Response Report from the National Patient Safety Agency on vaccine cold storage in January this year? It seemed to pass me by but the report resulted from a number of significant incidents where standards fell below an acceptable level. The document called for immediate action by all NHS organisations holding vaccines requiring cold storage with a deadline of 21 July 2010 to complete the action. If this is

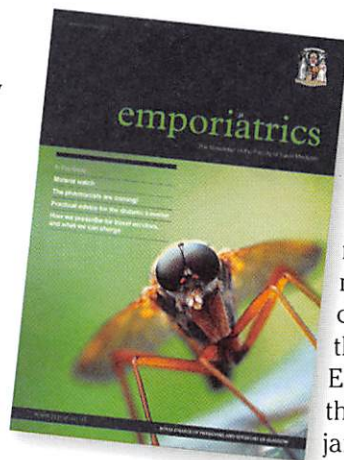


news to you as well, you can view the report at www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?entryid45=66111&p=3. Chapter 3 of the Green Book provides a comprehensive review of storage, distribution and disposal of vaccines. In addition, materials to support the process are available on the Department of Health website. A new protocol for ordering, storing and

handling vaccines was published on 30 September and can be found at www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_120010. The Health Protection Agency also has good training materials on the topic. Go to www.hpa.org.uk and search on 'vaccine storage'.

FACULTY OF TRAVEL MEDICINE

The Faculty of Travel Medicine (FTM) of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow has launched an affiliate membership category for those

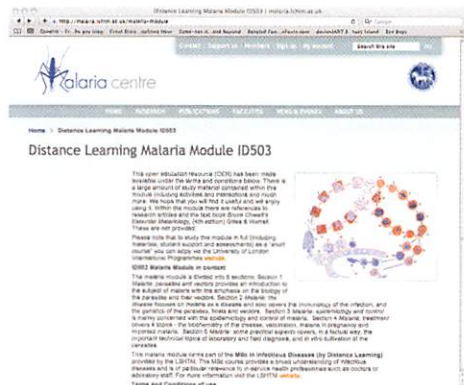


who enjoy the subject but may not want to undertake related formal training and sit exams. Affiliate membership includes reduced rates for a number of FTM conferences and the faculty newsletter. Email me to receive the electronic version at jane@janechiodini.co.uk. Emporiatics means the science of travel medicine.

NEW MALARIA COURSE

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has recently launched a new online distance learning malaria module. The in-depth course gives a comprehensive overview of malaria, including immunology of the infection, and the genetics of the parasites, hosts and vectors.

The course is free and registration to access the course materials can be found at: <http://malaria.lshtm.ac.uk/malaria-module>



Jane Chiodini, MSc (Travel Med), RGN, RM, FFTM RCPS (Glasg) is a travel health specialist nurse with 20 years' experience seeing travellers in a primary care setting. Jane has been training practice nurses since obtaining a Masters degree in travel medicine in 1998. She is passionate about designing tools and materials for nurses to use in practice, which can be found at www.janechiodini.co.uk