



# 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

## TRAVAX FACELIFT

Travax, the interactive website providing up to the minute travel health information for health care professionals provided by the travel team within Health Protection Scotland has had a complete overhaul. It now presents a clearer and neater appearance which overall makes it more pleasurable to use. The new design makes risk assessment easier, with vaccination recommendations graded by considering epidemiology of the disease at the destination. Additional information is obtainable on country pages by clicking on an arrow icon to help in the risk assessment process.

A suitcase icon indicates the opportunity to create an advice sheet specific for the individual traveller identified from a selection of 73 topics on general advice, disease prevention and a separate section on malaria. This can then be printed out and given to the traveller. Alternatively the topics can be incorporated into an email which could be sent to the traveller and the travel adviser with web links to the specific subjects found on the public site of Travax, Fit for Travel.

I have then been attaching this email into the patient held records on the computer as evidence regarding the advice provided. My other favourite new

feature is a bank of excellent FAQs which are extremely helpful. This service is free to NHS users in Scotland and Wales, but chargeable in England and Northern Ireland at £100 per GP practice or through a group subscription through your PCT. For further information go to [www.travax.nhs.uk](http://www.travax.nhs.uk).

## E-LEARNING FOR IMMUNISATION

I've been involved in an expert advisory group for a number of years developing an online course for immunisation and

stage. The course comprises seven modules and is suitable for all staff involved in this field of work. The core material is fundamental to immunisation and vaccination for everyone and attention is also paid to travel diseases and vaccines. Accessible to all NHS workers in England, I found I needed to enter the website ([www.corelearningunit.nhs.uk](http://www.corelearningunit.nhs.uk)) via web browser Internet Explorer as it wouldn't work on my Google Chrome. One first needs to register and sign in, but you can then manage the way you undertake

the learning and the website keeps track of your progress on your dedicated learning and progress pages, so that you can study the course when and as it suits you.



The Skills for Health core learning unit website has seven new modules

vaccinations based on the National Minimum Standards for Immunisation Training and Core Curriculum document from the Health Protection Agency published in 2005. I was therefore delighted to see the e-learning course launched on the Skills for Health core learning unit website in May 2011.

Two senior nurses and experts in immunisation, Judith Moreton and Laura Craig developed the work to this final

immunity, B cells and T cells, humoral response, cell mediated immunity, memory response and vaccination.

There are also an additional ten videos to respond to commonly asked questions such as: 'Can you give too many vaccines?' and: 'Why do some people respond better to vaccines than others?' They may be helpful to show to our patients to explain the answer in an interactive and comprehensive format. Go to <http://immunologyanimation.hpa.org.uk/> for more information. ●

## IMMUNOLOGY VIDEOS

The Health Protection Agency has published some excellent videos to help immunisers understand the concept of immunology in a series of videos on topics such as innate immunity, acquired

## Jane Chiodini

MSc(Travel Med), RGN, RM, FFTM  
RCPS(Glasg)

Jane is a travel health specialist nurse with 20 years' experience of seeing travellers in a primary care setting. She has been training practice nurses in travel health for many years and is passionate about designing tools and materials for nurses to use in practice, which can be found at [www.janechiodini.co.uk](http://www.janechiodini.co.uk)