



Travel health update

Travel health can be complicated, and advice for health professionals and travellers is ever-changing. In this new, 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 will also revisit areas of on-going concern, for spot-checks and further clarification

THE NEW YELLOW BOOK

We are all familiar with the Green Book (*Immunisation against Infectious Disease*) but if you have only recently started practicing travel health, you may not be aware of the 'Yellow Book' (*Health Information for Overseas Travel*). First published by the Department of Health in 1995, a second edition of the Yellow Book was published in 2001. The National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) will publish the new edition next month. With a fresh looking cover, the publication has been completely restructured and its content expanded to help the practitioner to deliver evidence-based guidance on illness prevention in travellers from the UK. Illustrated throughout in full colour, and using attractive icons to identify risk management advice, the book also has an extensive section on travel-related diseases and resources. In addition, it provides guidance for the post-travel consultation, including algorithms for symptom assessment and further management.

NaTHNaC is setting up a web ordering system to enable Yellow Fever



Vaccination Centres in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to obtain a copy of the Yellow Book free of charge apart from postage and packaging costs. See www.nathnac.org for further details. All other practices can obtain one copy each, free of charge, from Sanofi Pasteur MSD; details will be posted on their website at www.spsmsd.co.uk. Customers of GlaxoSmithKline will be notified by post about how to obtain a copy from them. The book is published by Communisis (RRP £19.95).

THE 8 WEEKS TO GO CAMPAIGN

GlaxoSmithKline Travel Health has launched a national campaign aiming to educate British travellers about the importance of seeking travel health advice well in advance of their departure date. The initiative has been developed in partnership with ABTA – the Travel Association, Fit for Travel and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Know before You Go travel advice campaign. The website www.8weekstogo.co.uk is an excellent portal to direct travellers to NaTHNaC, Fit for Travel, the FCO and Malaria Hotspots, in addition to providing useful travel advice related documents that can be downloaded.

TRAVAX resources

TRAVAX – The A-Z of healthy travel, is an interactive online database for healthcare professionals that is maintained by the travel health team at Health Protection Scotland at www.TRAVAX.nhs.uk (registration required, charge for NHS users outside Scotland). Availability of the TRAVAX telephone helpline for its database users has changed, and it is now open on weekday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm except on Wednesdays. Posters and leaflets are available to advertise the travel advice resource, Fit for Travel, the sister website to TRAVAX. Downloadable versions can be obtained by going to the TRAVAX 'What's new' page and clicking on the 'fitfortravel' toucan bird icon, then selecting 'Resources'. There is also a link

to allow you to submit an email request for paper copies to be sent to you by post free of charge.

TRAVAX also provides an excellent travel advice booklet that includes a useful travel record section. Prices vary from

25p to 40p per copy depending on the quantity ordered. ●



Jane Chiodini, MSc (Travel Med), RGN, RM, FFTM RCPS (Glasg), travel health specialist nurse, nurse consultant and clinical lead nurse in travel medicine, WHO Collaborating Centre for Travel Medicine & Vaccines and Royal Free Travel Health Centre, London. Jane has 20 years' experience seeing travellers in a primary care setting, and has been training practice nurses in travel health for many years

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