Travel health update

Travel health can be complicated, and advice for professional travellers is ever-changing. In this new, regular feature, Jane Chiiodini seeks out and presents the latest travel advice information to help you to keep your practice up to date. She will also revisit areas of ongoing 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 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.spmvd.co.uk. Customers of GlaxoSmithKline will be notified by post about how to obtain a copy from them. The book will be published by Communique (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 Commonwealth Office (FCO) Know before You Go travel advice campaign. The website www.8weeksago.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 Chiiodini, MSc (Travel Med), RGN, RM, FFFM, RCPS (Glasc), 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.

© 2010 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved. Registered office: The Boulevard, Langford Lane, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1GB
This journal and the individual contributions contained in it are protected under copyright by Elsevier Ltd and the following terms and conditions apply to their use:
Photocopying: single photocopies of single articles may be made for personal use as allowed by national copyright laws. Permission of the Publisher and payment of a fee is required for all other photocopying, including multiple or systematic copying, copying for advertising or promotional purposes, resale, and all forms of document delivery. Special rates are available for educational classroom use. Permissions may be sought directly from Elsevier Rights and Permissions Department, PO Box 800, Oxford OX5 1DX, UK; phone (+44) (0) 1865 843838, fax (+44) (0) 1865 853333, email: permissions@elsevier.com. You may also contact Global Rights directly through Elsevier’s homepage (www.elsevier.com), by selecting "Obtaining Permission". Initial USA, Canada and MCMLXXXV, may clash permissions and make payments through the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc. 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, USA; phone: (+1) (978) 7508400, fax: (+1) (978) 7501474, and in the UK through the Copyright Licensing Agency Rapid Copyright Service (CLARCS). 9 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LP, UK; phone: (+44) (0) 2076315555, fax: (+44) (0) 207631 5000. Other countries may have a local reprographic rights agency. Notice: No responsibility is assumed by the Publisher for any injury and/or damage to persons or property as a matter of product liability, negligence or otherwise, or from any use or operation of any methods, products, instructions or ideas contained in the material herein. Because of rapid advances in the medical sciences, in particular, independent verification of diagnoses and drug dosages should be made. Although all advertising material is accepted and published in good faith, inclusion or exclusion of an advertisement is beyond the control of Elsevier and the Publisher. Inclusion of advertisements for products or services does not constitute a guarantee or endorsement of the quality or value of such product or of the claims made by its manufacturers.