

## Patient Policy 24: Guidance on Prescribing of Medicines for Patients who are travelling abroad

This guidance defines the decisions made by Datchet Health Centre regarding supply of medicines for a patient travelling abroad following a full review of the evidence.

### **Prescribers should not usually prescribe treatment durations in excess of THREE MONTHS for patients who are travelling abroad**

If you need regular medication for a stable long-term health condition, your GP may prescribe a maximum of three months' supply if you are going abroad.

The length of treatment that your GP will prescribe depends on what they consider is suitable. This may depend on how long your GP thinks you'll continue to need your medication or how often your treatment needs to be reviewed. Less than three months' supply may be clinically appropriate.

If you are going abroad for longer than three months, you may need to register with a local doctor to obtain medication whilst abroad. Some medications may also be available from a pharmacist abroad.

**Note, in addition, that your GP is not responsible for prescribing medication required for conditions which may arise while travelling e.g. diarrhoea medicine, travel sickness, diazepam for anxious flyers. If they feel it is appropriate they may provide a private prescription or where possible you should buy what you require from a community pharmacy before you travel.**

### **Background**

The purpose of this guidance is to outline the decisions taken by DHC regarding the prescribing of medicine for patients travelling abroad. This guidance is for all prescribers, both medical and non-medical.

The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004, states that a person who leaves the UK with the intention of being away for a period of at least three months is removed from the doctor's list and, as a consequence, ceases to be eligible for NHS treatment.



