



## PATIENTS TRAVELLING OUTSIDE OF THE UK

**If a patient is travelling abroad for up to three months and intending to return:** An NHS prescription for regular medication will be given to cover the three month period if the GP is happy that you have been regularly checked.

**If travelling for more than three months or not intending to return:** An NHS prescription for one month's supply of regular medication will be given. This should allow sufficient time for the journey and arrangements to engage a suitable medical practitioner in the overseas country. The patient will be removed from the practice list.

**Requests for other medication to take abroad:** No medication other than that which is taken on a regular basis will be prescribed. This includes antibiotics, treatments for diarrhoea or any other 'JUST IN CASE' treatment. If the patient is already abroad, no prescriptions can be issued. NHS prescriptions or medication cannot be sent abroad, and if the practice believes this is being arranged for by the patient

**IF WE ARE AWARE THAT YOU ARE TRAVELLING ABROAD FOR LONGER THAN THREE MONTHS WE WOULD BE COMMITTING A FRAUDULENT OFFENCE IF WE BREACHED THE ABOVE PROTOCOL.**

**Note:** Patients who return to the UK for the purpose of obtaining medication, or who use a local proxy to request prescriptions on their behalf will be refused supply. Patients should seek to local services in their country of residence with the offer of supplying appropriate medical notes and a list of current medicines to their qualified medical practitioner.

**THE NHS REG'S:** If a person is going to be abroad for over 3 months then the MAXIMUM they are entitled to at NHS expense is a sufficient supply of regular medications to get to the destination and find an alternative supply of that medication. Patients should be advised to check on arrangements for obtaining prescribed medicines in the country they intend to visit before leaving the UK • The NHS's duty of care regarding prescribing ends where a patient has been absent, or intends to be away from the United Kingdom for a period of more than three months. Further information is available on the NHS Choices website.