

# Prescribing for Patients travelling abroad

## **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 **providing** the GP is happy that any monitoring required is up to date and satisfactory.
- The patient will remain registered with the practice.

## **Travelling abroad for more than three months or not intending to return**

- An NHS prescription for one month's supply of regular medication will be provided. This allows sufficient time for the journey to be undertaken and a suitable medical practitioner to be engaged 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 a patient takes 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.

**If the practice is aware that you are travelling abroad for longer than three months and does not take the appropriate action, as stated above, it could be considered to be acting in a fraudulent manner.**

The protocol is based on current NHS regulations; the relevant parts are quoted below.

*'The NHS accepts responsibility for supplying ongoing medication for temporary periods abroad of up to 3 months.'*

*'If a person is going to be abroad for more than three months then all that the patient is entitled to at NHS expense is a sufficient supply of his/her regular medication to get to the destination and find an alternative supply of that medication.'*

*'where a person for whose treatment a doctor is responsible leaves the United Kingdom with the intention of being away for a period of at least three months, that person is removed from the doctor's list and as a consequence, ceases to be eligible for NHS treatment.'*