

Position Statement for prescribing malaria prevention medicines on the NHS for travel abroad

NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group is committed to delivering best value by ensuring that we use our resources well. Therefore, Southwark Borough does not support the routine prescribing of medication for malaria prevention on the NHS for travel abroad. This includes:

- Atovaquone with Proguanil hydrochloride (Malarone®, Maloff Protect®)
- Chloroquine phosphate (Avloclor®, Malarivon®)
- Chloroquine phosphate with Proguanil hydrochloride (Avloclor/Paludrine®)
- Doxycycline
- Mefloquine (Lariam®)
- Proguanil hydrochloride (Paludrine®)

Guidance for prescribers

NHS patients are entitled to receive free advice on malaria prevention.

Ensure patients are fully informed of the importance of appropriate malaria prevention in order to reduce the risk of disease.

Patients should be advised about the importance of mosquito bed nets, suitable clothing and insect repellents such as DEET, to protect against being bitten.

Remember the Public Health England **ABCD** of malaria prevention: (**A**ware of the risks; use **B**ite prevention; take **C**hemoprophylaxis (malaria tablets); seek early **D**iagnosis if they become unwell). Information on which malaria prevention medicines are necessary or recommended for the areas your patients will be visiting is available from:

- Travel Health Pro <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>
- Fit for Travel www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/advice.aspx
- Travax <http://www.travax.nhs.uk/malaria.aspx>

Patients should be advised to purchase or obtain sufficient prophylactic medicines to cover the period of travel, taking into account that malaria prevention medicines are commenced prior to travel, are taken whilst away and continued on return from travel.

Patients may purchase “Pharmacy only” malaria prevention medicines such as chloroquine (Avloclor®), proguanil (Paludrine®), chloroquine with proguanil (Avloclor/Paludrine®) and atovaquone with proguanil (Maloff Protect®) from a pharmacy.

Prescription only medicines for malaria prevention such as doxycycline, Mefloquine (Lariam®) and atovaquone with proguanil (Malarone®) must be prescribed on a private prescription.

Fees for private prescriptions

The NHS Standard General Medical Services Contract 2014 states that a GP may accept a fee for prescribing or providing drugs or medicines for malaria prevention.

The fee should be determined by the practice.

Practices should give the patient written information on the dosing schedule proposed and the charges involved at the outset.

If a private prescription to obtain the malaria prevention medicines is being provided, patients should be advised to compare prices as there may be variation in the amount that individual pharmacies will charge to supply the medicines.

If a practice does not wish to provide a private service for the above mentioned malaria prevention medicines, patients should be advised that they may obtain advice and malaria prevention medicines from private travel clinics and community pharmacies.

Public Health England guidelines

Public Health England has developed practical guidelines for use by healthcare professionals advising travellers on malaria prevention but these may also be used by travellers who wish to read about options themselves.

[Guidelines for malaria prevention in travellers from the UK 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/guidance/2021-03-18-guidelines-for-malaria-prevention-in-travellers-from-the-uk-2021)