

PHARMACY NAME:

PHARMACY ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

Our pharmacy can administer meningococcal A, C, W135, Y vaccine to persons 11 years and over. This vaccination is a visa requirement for Saudi Arabia, and is recommended for travellers to Sub-Saharan Africa who are travelling 'rough' or who have close or prolonged contact with local people. Travellers in these areas are at risk of contracting meningitis infection which they may carry back to the UK.

No prescription for the vaccine is required. This is a private service for which recipients pay a fee to the pharmacy. The vaccine is not normally funded through the NHS and may not be available through GP surgeries.

There are two ACWY vaccines licensed in the UK; Menveo (Novartis) and ACWY Vax (GSK). Travellers require a single injection of either one or the other, but not both. Protection against the ACWY strains of the meningococcal bacteria is about 90% and last for at least five years. A booster dose of ACWY Vax may be needed after 5 years, if continuing protection is required. Routine childhood meningitis C vaccine in the UK does not protect against the A, W135 and Y strains of the meningitis bacteria (*Neisseria meningitidis*)

Department of Health guidelines suggest Menveo vaccine may produce higher levels of immunity, especially in young children. ACWY Vax is usually lower cost, which may be attractive to some travellers, particularly families. Some pharmacies may not offer a choice of both types of vaccine.

Children below 11 years also required ACWY vaccination if travelling to the risk areas; however our pharmacy is not permitted to administer injections to children of this age.

Pharmacists give A, C, W135, Y vaccine by the authority of a 'patient group direction' (PGD). Pharmacists undertake theoretical training and practical face-to-face training; including injection training, before being accredited administer the vaccine. This training is renewed annually.

### Features of the service include:

- Patients can self-refer. No referral from a doctor, surgery nurse, or travel service is required, although Pharmacist will also vaccinate patients referred for vaccination.
- Patients are provided with an information leaflet about ACWY vaccines prior to vaccination.
- Emphasis is placed on the need for patients to attend a GP surgery or specialist travel health service for their full 'travel health' requirements, and are advised specifically:

*Your Pharmacists does NOT provide all the advice and medication you may need for travel. It is important to ask your doctor or a specialist travel clinic for advice. People travelling to Saudi Arabia and Africa often require other vaccines and health advice.*

*Travel health requirements change and are specific to areas or travel. This leaflet was prepared in March 1012. Your GP surgery and specialist travel clinic will provide up-to- date information. The NHS 'fit for travel' website ([www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)) is also a good source of information.*

*In addition to vaccination against ACWY strains of the meningitis, travellers may require hepatitis B, tetanus diphtheria polio triple vaccine, MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) typhoid, hepatitis B,*

*and influenza vaccination. Rabies vaccine may be required by some people travelling to remote areas. Malaria tablets are required in many parts of Africa and throughout the world, including parts of Saudi Arabia, but not Medina or Makkah (the province surrounding Mecca).*

*GP surgeries often do not supply ACWY vaccination, even as a private service. However GP surgeries usually provide other vaccines and services free of cost, usually typhoid and hepatitis A, but not hepatitis B vaccination and malaria medication, which usually needs to be paid for privately. Your pharmacist may be able to provide malaria tablets and hepatitis B vaccination and influenza vaccination.*

*Meningitis ACWY vaccination is not currently (March 2012) recommended for travel to India, China or South America, although though this situation may change.*

- Patient consent, or consent from a parent or guardian, is required prior to vaccination
- Checks for exclusion to vaccination are carried out.
- Pharmacists administer the vaccine by intramuscular injection
- A certificate of ACWY vaccination is provided to travellers.
- Records of the PGD are retained for 8 years

### Vaccination by Pharmacists does NOT include:

Vaccination is not provided in some cases where there are pre-existing medical conditions e.g. immunodeficiency, bleeding disorders, and pregnancy, and others. These and some other groups are excluded. Persons in these groups are usually vaccinated at their GP surgeries or a specialist travel health clinic.

A useful health advice leaflet entitled 'Going to Hajj and Umrah' in various languages can be printed from a webpage of Dept of Health publications:

[www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_081148](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_081148)



For further information about private Patient Group Directions for Pharmacists please visit [www.pharmacypgd.co.uk](http://www.pharmacypgd.co.uk)