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Plan for phased re-introduction of hepatitis B vaccine for travellers

Public Health England has agreed to accelerate the phased reintroduction of vaccine

Public Health England (PHE) advises that vaccine manufacturers GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) consider that the supplies of adult and paediatric Hepatitis B vaccine (Engerix B®) and renal vaccine (Fendrix®) are now sufficient to supply the UK market. Merck Sharp Dohme (MSD) UK expects current supplies of adult vaccine (HBvaxPRO™ 10mcgs) to last until October 2018 and then supplies will not resume until 2020 [1].

PHE has agreed to accelerate the phased reintroduction of vaccine outlined in the recovery plan, so that vaccine is now available for all priority groups 1 to 4 [1].

Combined hepatitis A/B vaccine continues to be available and is the preferred first line choice for travellers [2,3]. For those who have previously received hepatitis A vaccine, and require a primary course of hepatitis B for travel to countries where there is a NaTHNaC [hepatitis B vaccine recommendation](#), single antigen hepatitis B vaccine, can be offered [1].

Advice for travellers

Advice on hepatitis B risk in specific countries is available on the [TravelHealthPro Country Information pages](#).

Resources

- [Hepatitis B factsheet](#)
- [Public Health England: Hepatitis B. Immunisation against infectious disease](#)
- [Public Health England: Hepatitis B vaccination in adults and children: temporary recommendations from 21 August 2017](#)
- [Public Health England: What to do if you have to wait for a dose of hepatitis B vaccine: advice for patients](#)

References

1. [Public Health England. Hepatitis B vaccine supplies: Details. 12 July 2018](#)
2. [Public Health England. Plan for phased re-introduction of hepatitis B vaccine for lower priority groups in 2018](#)
3. [Public Health England. Temporary Addendum: Combined hepatitis A and B vaccine use in travellers](#)