

ADVICE NOTE:

NHS Patients living or travelling abroad for more than three months of the year

Under NHS legislation, the NHS ceases to have responsibility for people when they leave the UK. However, to ensure good patient care the following guidance is offered.

People travelling within Europe should be advised to carry the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) at all times; this gives entitlements to local health care arrangements. Patients are advised to check specific entitlements and appropriate health advice prior to travel obtain adequate holiday insurance cover.

Medication required for pre-existing condition should be provided in sufficient quantity to cover the journey and to allow the patient to obtain medical attention abroad. If the patient is returning within the timescale of a normal prescription (usually one no more than three months) then this should be issued, providing it is clinically appropriate. Patients carrying prescribed controlled drugs abroad for their own personal use may require a personal license.

For longer visits abroad, the patient should be advised to register with a local doctor for continuing medication; this may need to be paid for by the patient. It is wise for the patient to check with the manufacturer that medicines required are available in the country being visited. It is also worth advising that medicines can be purchased without a prescription from pharmacies in some countries.

Llantwit Major Coastal and Vale Medical Practice adopts the above policy which is guidance from All Wales Medicines Strategy Group.

A restriction on the amount of medication issued by a practice in a given period has to be adopted because of the possibility of deterioration of a patient's clinical state. The patient has to be able to refer to a medical practitioner if they to, and the doctor in turn has to be able to contact his/her patient in the event for example passing on important information or for recalling a patient for medication review.

Therefore Llantwit Major Coastal and Vale Medical Practice will be operating the policy of providing no more than three months' supply of medication in only year for patients not resident for greater than this.

For further information and advice use this link:

<http://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/travelhealth/LivingAbroad>