

Medicines Management FAQs – COVID19

My Patient is stuck abroad due to COVID 19, can I write a prescription for them and the medication be posted?

The BMA states that: the NHS accepts responsibility for supplying on-going medication for temporary periods abroad of up to three months. If a person is going to be abroad for more than three months then only a sufficient supply of his/her regular medication should be provided to enable them to get to the destination and find an alternative supply. NHS prescriptions must never be obtained by relatives or friends on behalf of patients who are currently abroad, irrespective of such factors as owning a house in the UK or paying UK taxes. Patients are responsible for ensuring that any drugs they take into a country conform to local laws.

<https://www.bma.org.uk/media/1563/bma-prescribing-in-general-practice-april-2018.pdf>

Advice for patients is as follows:

If you are abroad and cannot immediately return to the UK and are concerned you may not have enough medicines (including antimalarials) or disposable medical equipment, you should contact your travel health insurance provider for advice about how to get safe medical supplies at your destination.

Other sources of information include:

- The International Society of Travel Medicine who provide a searchable [Global \(Travel\) Clinic Directory](#).
- The nearest [British Embassy, High Commission or Consulate](#) as they may be able to direct you to recommended local healthcare resources. **However, they cannot provide or pay for medical treatment or medical supplies.**

Please do not wait until your supplies of medication or equipment are very low. In many countries medicines and equipment are not as easily available and the current COVID -19 situation may affect supply chains.

<https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/news/512/stranded-abroad-during-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-access-to-medications>