

## Access to medication for UK residents stranded abroad as a result of coronavirus

Patients travelling abroad are advised to register with a local medical practitioner for any conditions that arise while they are abroad.

### **If you are running out of your prescription medication**

Contact your travel insurance company, they may be able to help get your prescription replaced. If they cannot help, seek medical assistance and follow advice from the local authorities in the country where you are staying.

Patients can be reassured that most medications are available in most countries so they are likely to be able to access a continuing supply of medications for long term conditions.

If you need urgent advice or information, contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) by phone 24/7 from anywhere in the world by calling our nearest [British embassy, high commission or consulate](#) or through the FCO line direct on 0207 008 1500.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-staying-where-you-are-if-you-cannot-return-to-the-uk#if-you-are-running-out-of-your-prescription-medication>

GP prescribing of repeat medication for people stranded abroad is not supported. When doctors prescribe a drug, they are clinically and legally responsible for any results of that decision to prescribe. In view of this it would not be considered good clinical practice for a doctor to prescribe repeat medication to a patient who is abroad for an extended period of time, since the prescriber will not be able to monitor the patient.

See also Mid Essex Policy on medicines supply for going abroad.

<https://www.midessexccg.nhs.uk/medicines-optimisation/general-prescribing-guidance/2459-policy-for-medicine-supply-for-going-abroad-may-2017/file>

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Mid Essex CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the local joint formulary and prescribing guidance, or relevant Medicines Management agreement.

<b>Title</b>	Access to medications for UK residents stranded abroad as a result of coronavirus
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	Brentwood and Basildon CCG
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<b>Approved by</b>	Mid Essex CCG Medicines Optimisation Team
<b>Date Approved</b>	April 2020
<b>Review Date</b>	April 2022