

Traveller Information Sheets



Travel Insurance

Patients attending for travel medicine consultations are encouraged to take out comprehensive travel insurance to cover them for the activities they plan whilst away.

Travel agents are the most informed group on travel insurance. Patients are encouraged to discuss this with their travel agent.

It is worth while providing the following information to travellers before they seek out travel insurance (WHO, 2011 pp.8-9);

- Are there any health care reciprocal agreements between the country of residence and the destination?
- Is there a high risk associated with travel to the destination; is medical care expensive or not readily available at the destination?
- Will your travel insurance cover things like accidents, changes to itineraries or mode of transport, any emergencies, repatriation if the policy holder dies?
- Do you know the procedure for reimbursement?

Once a policy has been agreed upon, the agent must inform the traveller of the procedures for obtaining assistance. Most travel insurance providers have a 24 hour number that travellers can contact.

A copy of the insurance policy must be kept on the traveller at all times and an extra copy should be kept elsewhere.

Reference

World Health Organisation, 2011, *International health and travel*, Geneva Switzerland, pp 8-9.