

Prescribing Policy

Malaria Prophylaxis

Policy Statement: October 2010

This policy defines the decision made by NHS Wirral regarding supply of medicines for malaria prophylaxis following a full evidence review.

NHS Wirral has agreed that drugs for malaria prophylaxis are not prescribable on the NHS. Private prescriptions should be used for prescription only medicines for malaria prophylaxis

What this means for patients is:-

- The Department of Health has directed that your GP may not prescribe medicines to prevent malaria on the NHS.
- Doxycycline, mefloquine and Malarone (proguanil/atovaquone) must be prescribed by your GP on a private prescription as these are prescription only medicines. Your GP may charge you for issuing a private prescription.
- Other medicines for the prevention of malaria, which are not prescription only medicines, can be purchased directly from community pharmacies.
- Community pharmacies have access to up to date advice about appropriate malaria prevention and can advise you accordingly.
- Medicines to prevent malaria are not 100% effective. You should also use mosquito nets, insect repellents and wear suitable clothing to protect against being bitten.
- You can contact us on 0151 647 4251 or freephone 0800 085 1547 or at haveyoursay@wirral.nhs.uk if you have any concerns.

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The following terms are used in this document

British National Formulary (BNF)	The BNF provides prescribers, pharmacists and other health care professionals e.g. nurses with up to date information about medicines prescribed in the UK
The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004	These regulations set out the framework for General Medical Services (GMS) contracts i.e. the services your GP provides.
Prophylaxis	Prevention

If you would like a copy in another format, such as Braille, large print, audio cassette or CD, or in another language, please contact us by telephone or at the email address shown.

<p>إذا لديك الرغبة في الحصول على نسخة بشكل آخر، مثل لغة بريل، طباعة كبيرة، شريط كاسيت أو أسطوانة سي دي أو بلغة أخرى، نرجو الاتصال بنا تلفونياً أو عن طريق عنوان البريد الإلكتروني الموضح.</p> <p>(Arabic)</p>
<p>যদি আপনি এটি অন্য কোনো রুন্নমাটে চান, যেমন ব্রেইল, বড় ছাপার অক্ষরে, অডিও ক্যাসেটে অথবা সি-ডি-তে এমন কি অন্য কোনো ভাষায় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে আমাদের সঙ্গে যোগাযোগ করুন টেলিফোনে অথবা ইমেল ঠিকানায়।</p> <p>(Bengali)</p>
<p>如果您想索取這份文件的其他語文譯本或以其他形式編制的版本 (如凸字、大字體、錄音帶或光碟) , 請撥下列電話號碼或寄電郵來聯絡我們。</p> <p>(Chinese)</p>
<p>अगर आप ब्रेल, बड़े अक्षरों, ऑडियो कैसेट अथवा सीडी जैसे अन्य रूप या किसी अन्य भाषा में इसकी एक प्रति चाहते हैं, तो कृपया टैलिफोन द्वारा या दिए गए ईमेल पते पर हमें सम्पर्क करें।</p> <p>(Hindi)</p>
<p>W celu uzyskania niniejszej informacji w innym formacie, np. w języku Braille'a, dużym drukiem, na kasecie audio, na płycie CD lub w innym języku, prosimy o kontakt telefoniczny lub na podany adres e-mail.</p> <p>(Polish)</p>
<p>ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਬ੍ਰੇਲ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਆੱਡੀਓ ਕੈਸੇਟ ਜਾਂ ਸੀਡੀ ਵਰਗੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਇਸਦੀ ਇੱਕ ਕਾੱਪੀ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਈਮੇਲ ਪਤੇ ਰਾਹੀਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।</p> <p>(Punjabi)</p>
<p>Haddii aad jeclaan laheyn koobi qaab kale ah, sida farta Braille, far waaweyn, cajallad maqal ama CD (SiiDi), ama iyada oo luqad kale ah, fadlan nagala soo teleefoon ama cinwaanka email-ka ah ee hoos lagu muujiyey.</p> <p>(Somali)</p>
<p>اگر آپ کو اس کی ایک نقل کسی دیگر شکل، جیسے بریل، بڑے حروف، آڈیو کیسٹ یا سی ڈی، یا کسی دوسری زبان میں درکار ہو تو، براہ کرم ہم سے بذریعہ ٹیلیفون یا دیے گئے ای میل پتے پر رابطہ کریں۔</p> <p>(Urdu)</p>

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Prescribing Policy

Malaria Prophylaxis

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to outline the methods of supply for malaria prophylaxis. This policy applies to all prescribers, both medical and non-medical.
- 1.2 Medicines for malaria prophylaxis are not reimbursable under the NHS¹. Therefore, prescription only medicines for malaria prophylaxis must be prescribed on private prescriptions.

2. EVIDENCE

- 2.1 The British National Formulary (BNF) states that medicines for malaria prophylaxis are not prescribable on the NHS¹.
- 2.2 The NHS (General Medical Services) Regulations 2004 state that a GP may accept a fee for prescribing or providing drugs or medicines for malaria chemoprophylaxis².
- 2.3 The Department of Health issued guidance in February 1995 (FHSL (95)7) which is still current. This guidance states that private prescription forms should be used to prescribe drugs for malaria prophylaxis³.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 Prescription only medicines for malaria prophylaxis such as doxycycline, mefloquine and Malarone (proguanil/atovaquone) must be prescribed on a private prescription. A consultation fee may be charged at the GP's discretion.
- 3.2 Some medicines for the prevention of malaria are available for the patient to purchase over the counter at a community pharmacy. If this is the case a GP need not write a prescription.
- 3.3 Patients should be advised to purchase or obtain sufficient prophylactic medicines to cover the period of travel, taking into account that anti-malarial drugs are commenced prior to travel, are taken whilst away and continued on return from travel (see BNF for prophylactic regimes for individual drugs).
- 3.4 Patients should be advised about the importance of mosquito nets, suitable clothing and insect repellents to protect against being bitten.

- 3.5** GPs may still use FP10s to prescribe anti-malarial drugs to patients in the UK who need those drugs for other conditions e.g. gout.

4. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1** Responsibility for implementation lies with GP practices and Practice Based Commissioning clusters.

5. ROUTE FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RATIFICATION

- 5.1** All prescribing policies are underpinned by detailed clinical evidence reviews. Draft policies are subject to consultation at local clinical meetings with Medical Directors, GPs and pharmacists. The final policies are ratified at the Professional Executive Committee and published on the PCT website.

6. REFERENCES

1. British National Formulary 59, March 2010, section 5.4.1
2. The National Health Service (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004.
3. NHS Executive. FHSL (95) 7. Malaria Prophylaxis: Regulation permitting GPs to charge for prescribing or providing anti-malarial drugs. February 1995.