



APPENDIX 5: TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR APPROVED CLINICIANS ADMINISTERING YELLOW FEVER VACCINE

Training / re-training is mandatory for Yellow Fever Vaccination Centre (YFVC) approved clinicians (medical practitioners and nurses) and is important in ensuring best practice. To be certified and remain a certified YFVC in Ireland the YFVC must demonstrate that approved clinicians prescribing and administering Yellow Fever vaccine are maintaining competence in vaccination and Yellow Fever knowledge.

General Immunisation Training

Approved clinicians (both medical practitioners and nurses) must be familiar with the current national immunisation guidelines from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee, available at [NIAC Immunisation Guidelines](#).

Approved clinicians must also be familiar with the following publication from the HSE National Immunisation Office 'Supporting Information for Vaccinators in General Practice', available here <https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/information-healthcare-workers/national-immunisation-office/resources/> While the purpose of this support document is to cover the key issues and best practice for clinicians providing immunisations in medical practices as part of National Immunisation Programmes, much of the content is applicable to the provision of other immunisations also.

Chapter 4 of the 'Supporting Information for Vaccinators in General Practice' document outlines recommendations for the safe delivery of vaccines in General Practice, including recommended relevant training for clinicians. These recommendations are also suitable for YFVCs. The recommended relevant professional registration and training includes:

- Be a Registered Medical Practitioner, on the active register maintained by the IMC.
- Be a Registered Nurse, on the active register maintained by the NMBI
- Basic Life Support for Health Care Workers within the last two years (For e.g. Irish Heart Foundation (IHF), American Heart Association (AHA))

- Initial anaphylaxis programme (National Anaphylaxis Education Programme for Health Care Professionals) available via HSeLanD followed by a two-hour classroom-based skills workshop.
- Subsequent updates of anaphylaxis every two years via HSeLanD Anaphylaxis e-learning programme.
- HSeLanD “Storing and Managing Vaccines” module

TRAINING SPECIFIC TO YFVC CERTIFICATION

To maintain travel health competency regarding Yellow Fever (YF) all clinicians must complete YF specific training at least every three years. Additionally, all approved clinicians administering Yellow Fever Vaccine (YFV) should keep up to date on YF knowledge and updates available from travel health sites ([Appendix 13](#)). It is the individual clinician’s (medical practitioner or nurse) responsibility to ensure they have appropriate, up to date training and that they work within their scope of practice.

A number of suitable on-line YF courses are available. These include:

- **Information for health professionals (from Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC), New Zealand).** Free to access and takes about 3 hours. The course contains: YF international regulation and policy, YF disease, epidemiology and risk to travellers, YFV and administration, assessment quiz and compulsory video. Pass mark 80%. <https://www.immune.org.nz/catalogue/yellow-fever-information-for-health-professionals>
- **Yellow Fever eLearning alone (National Travel Health Network & Centre (NaTHNaC), UK),** Fees Apply. Suitable as an update to refresh your knowledge and understanding of the epidemiology of YF, International Health Regulations, and the YFV, running a YFVC in the UK, code of practice, role of Responsible Supervising Clinician annual returns/audit, Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulations. Includes a mandatory MCQ assessment (pass mark 80%).
NaTHNaC advises that this course is particularly suitable for clinicians who have previously completed NaTHNaC Yellow Fever training (classroom or earlier eLearning), as it builds on prior knowledge and includes travel health scenarios relating to YF risk assessment. [Yellow Fever eLearning alone | NaTHNaC Training Portal](#)

- **Yellow Fever Training, adapted to the Irish setting. Travel Health Educate.** Fees Apply. Taking its guidance from National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC), Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) & HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) the course is delivered in two parts. Part 1: YF epidemiology, clinical features, diagnosis & treatment, WHO IHR designation for YFVC, International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP) and risk assessment. Part 2: YFV, indications for use, contraindications, precautions, patient case studies and post course MCQ quiz. Pass mark: 80%. Although the pass mark is not included on the certificate, it will only be issued on achieving this score.
<https://travelhealtheducate.com/>
- **CDC, US Yellow Fever Vaccine: Information for Health Care Professionals Advising Travellers:** Free to access at link below and takes approximately 3 hours. The course has two lessons: YF, History, Epidemiology and Vaccine Information and The Pre-Travel Consultation and Best Practice for YFVC in the USA. It contains knowledge checks and MCQs within the course. Pass mark is 80%. Certificate and course transcript must be submitted, as the transcript contains the date, participant's name and score. <https://www.train.org/cdctrain/course/1111879/compilation>

Within the training materials of the above courses, references are made to the National Immunization Technical Advisory Groups within the respective countries e.g.

- New Zealand National Immunization Technical Advisory Group (NZ NITAG)
- Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), UK
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), USA, the

The Irish equivalent is the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC).

Training course material regarding contraindications and cautions

The contraindications and precautions outlined in the training materials of the training courses listed above are broadly similar and aligned with Irish recommendations. Some training resources from other countries include additional information to support clinical risk assessment when compared with Irish guidance. Clinical decision-making in Ireland should be guided by NIAC guidance and the licensed Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) for the Yellow Fever vaccine used in Ireland.

The training courses listed above are those currently considered suitable for the purposes of YFVC certification; training requirements and recommended courses will be kept under review and may be updated in line with evolving evidence, national guidance, and international best practice. Proof of completion of the post-course assessment of the above courses will be required for YFVC certification and re-certification and for approval as a clinician to prescribe (medical practitioner only) or administer (medical practitioner/nurse) Yellow Fever vaccine (YFV).

The following courses are available for those who wish to gain a more in-depth knowledge of Travel Health.

Certificate in Travel Health™ (CTH) from the International Society of Travel Medicine (ISTM) is the globally recognised standard for travel medicine professionals. The exam is designed for physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals in the field. Must be maintained every 10 years. <https://www.istm.org/education-resources/cth-program/istm-certificate-of-travel-health/>

RCPSG Postgraduate Diploma in Travel Medicine This course has been designed in line with the Faculty of Travel Medicine's publications 'Good Practice Guidance for Providing a Travel Health Service' and 'Recommendations for the Practice of Travel Medicine'. The course is delivered at postgraduate level and carries 120 credit points at SCQF Level 11. <https://rcpsg.ac.uk/education/postgraduate-diploma-in-travel-medicine>

Professional Development Certificate in Travel Medicine, RCPSG. The PDC in Travel Medicine is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of clinicians working in travel medicine. Four core modules are: 1) Pre-Travel Risk Assessment & Management, 2) Travel Related Infections, 3) Malaria and Mosquito Borne Diseases and 4) Immunology and Immunisations. <https://rcpsg.ac.uk/education/pdc-in-travel-medicine>

The Professional Diploma in Travel Health, from Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM). 4 modules: 1) Travel Vaccination Principles and Practice, 2) Malaria Prevention in Travel Health, 3) Hazards in Travel Health and 4) Governance and Safety in Travel Health. Assessment after each module, final MCQ exam and structured knowledge exam (OSKE). <https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/study/courses/professional-diploma-in-travel-health>

Diploma in Tropical Nursing, LSTM. The course combines up-to-date factual knowledge and current best practice with scenario-based learning and practical skills in lab sessions. <https://www.lstmed.ac.uk/study/courses/diploma-in-tropical-nursing>

Professional Diploma in Tropical Nursing (PTDN) from London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). The PTDN is an established professional qualification and a requirement for many international agencies including Médecins Sans Frontières, Save the Children, Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO), and the British Red Cross among others.

<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/short-courses/diploma-tropical-nursing>

EVIDENCE AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR YELLOW FEVER TRAINING

Please note the following when completing approved online Yellow Fever training via the IMAC (New Zealand), NaTHNaC, and CDC websites:

- Approved training courses, platforms, and supporting materials referenced in this Appendix reflect those considered suitable at the time of publication; training requirements and recommended resources will be kept under review and may be updated in line with evolving evidence, national guidance, and international best practice.
- All training takes approximately three hours to complete and can be completed over a number of sessions.
- Proof of completion of the post-course assessment of the above training programmes is required for:
 - YFVC certification and YFVC re-certification every three years.
 - approval as a clinician to prescribe (medical practitioner only) or administer (medical practitioner/nurse) Yellow Fever vaccine (YFV).
- Following completion of an approved training package, all clinicians administering YFV must complete and sign a declaration ([Appendix 6](#)) confirming that the training has been completed in full.
- The signed declaration ([Appendix 6](#)) and proof of training completion (e.g., certificate or confirmation of successful assessment) must be submitted to the assigned HSE regional service as evidence of compliance and for audit purposes.
- At both YFVC certification and re-certification every three years, the following documentation must be submitted to the assigned HSE regional service for each clinician seeking approval to prescribe (medical practitioner only) and/or administer (medical practitioner/nurse) YFVs:
 - Evidence of completion of approved YF training (e.g., certificate or confirmation of successful post-course assessment)
 - Evidence of current Irish Medical Council (IMC) (medical practitioner) or Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) (nurses) registration

- Evidence of current medical indemnity / insurance

Yellow Fever Vaccines

The vaccines mentioned and pictured in the approved training courses are those available in New Zealand, UK and USA and may be different products to those used in Ireland.

However, the YFV used in these countries are all WHO approved and are similar to those used in Ireland.

The CDC training program references fractional dosing of the YFV, this practice is not approved by NIAC and therefore is not recommended in Ireland.

The Yellow Fever vaccine which is licensed for use in Ireland, at the time of writing, is Stamaril (Sanofi Pasteur MSD)

For the latest Stamaril Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) and Patient Information Leaflets please refer to the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA), website <https://www.hpra.ie/> .

Reporting of adverse events

In Ireland, YFV – related adverse events should be reported to the HPRA www.hpra.ie

Medical Letter of Exemption (MLoE)

If Yellow Fever is contraindicated for medical reasons and the traveller is aware of the risks of infection, a medical letter of exemption by an approved medical practitioner may be provided to allow essential travel (NIAC Guidelines). In Ireland this is written in a headed letter format and not on the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP).

Please note the following in relation to MLoE:

- A MLoE is issued on a single trip basis only with a beginning and end date.
- The letter must be signed by an approved medical practitioner, with current Yellow Fever training and stamped with the official YFVC stamp.

The MLoE should include:

- the traveller's full name and destination
- the medical reason for the exemption
- a beginning and end date

- the letter should be on the medical professional's letterhead
- must be signed by the medical professional, with their professional title clearly indicated.

The approved medical practitioner completing a MLoE must inform the traveller about the risks of Yellow Fever and not being vaccinated under International Health Regulations (2005). All travellers should be advised on risk reduction through strict adherence to insect bite prevention measures.

The approved medical practitioner completing the MLoE must inform the traveller that an MLoE is not a guarantee of entry into a country and the risk of being quarantined. It is for the local competent authority to take into account the MLoE on arrival at the country.

Additional Travel Medicine Information and Resources

A list of websites and resources for Travel Medicine, Yellow Fever and YFV is available in [Appendix 13.](#)