



SHS Subsidy for Immunizations & Medications Required for School-Sponsored Travel

Background: The number of students traveling and the cost of travel medications has risen dramatically over the past four years and is concentrated in SPH and P&S. Discussions with both the Student Health and the Deans Advisory Committees concur that these costs should be borne by the students traveling rather than by the entire student body. Many students elect to travel; some students in SPH (Global Health Program) are *required* to travel to fulfill the requirements for their degree. There is no difference in efficacy among the three drugs usually available for students traveling in chloroquine-resistant areas; indeed, compliance with mefloquine (weekly) may be better than with malarone (daily). Full subsidy of malarone is no longer financially feasible.

Because of this increasing financial burden to all students, the Student Health Service is adopting the following travel medication subsidy policy effective for **all travel beginning after June 30, 2007**. **Subsidy is provided only to those students or post-docs who are enrolled in the SHS.**

Policy

1. The period of school-sponsored travel will be the period of time the student's school certifies as academic activity. Vacation time before or after a school-sponsored activity will not be included. For example, should a student complete a 4-week elective and then travel for two weeks, only 4-weeks would be subsidized by the SHS.
2. Anti-malarial prophylaxis required *only* for contiguous vacation activity will not be subsidized.
3. A higher level of support will be given to students/post-docs *required* to travel to complete their degree.

Required Travel

1. SHS will subsidize the travel medications for a student *required* to travel for 6 months up to a maximum support of \$350 per fiscal year.
2. SHS will subsidize the travel medications of a student *required* to travel for 3 months up to a maximum support of \$200 per fiscal year. [This will fully cover one course of Cipro per 3 months and the intermediately-priced malaria prophylaxis (mefloquine). For required travel only, Cipro is priced at \$10.]
3. For required travel between 3-6 months, a subsidy of \$50 per month will be given. Partial months
4. will be covered as follows: 1-15 days 50% of subsidy; 16-31 days 100% of subsidy, up to the maximum of \$350.
5. Subsidized post-exposure prophylaxis drugs (4 days) will be given to students/post docs in clinical years of clinical schools who will be providing care. Students/post docs in the School of Public Health who are licensed clinicians and will also be providing care will also receive subsidized 4-day supplies. **All students/post docs must pay a \$50 copay toward the 3-drug regimen.** (Students who sustain a significant exposure and must take the 28-day prophylactic regimen will have those costs absorbed by SHS.)

Elective Travel

1. Students or post-docs *electing* travel will receive up to a \$50 subsidy per month for travel medications to a maximum of \$250 per fiscal year.
2. Partial months will be subsidized as follows: 1-15 days 50% of indicated subsidy; 16-30 (31) days 100% of subsidy (in both cases up to maximum of \$250).
3. Subsidized post-exposure prophylaxis drugs (4 days) will be given to students/post-docs in clinical years of clinical schools who will be providing care. Students/post-docs in the School of Public Health who are licensed clinicians and will also be providing care will also receive subsidized 4-day supplies. **All students/post docs must pay a \$50 copay toward the 3-drug regimen.** (Students who sustain a significant exposure and must take the full prophylactic regimen will have those costs absorbed by SHS).

All Students Traveling

1. At present the SHS will continue to subsidize the full cost of travel immunizations unless an immunization is required *only* for contiguous vacation activity.
2. The student will be given a Ray's voucher and prescription(s) indicating the amount paid by SHS, the remainder to be paid by the student/post-doc.
3. Students/post-docs who do not require post-exposure prophylaxis will be asked to donate their drugs to the clinical facility where they are working when they leave (unless they will travel again before the expiration date of the drugs).

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Administrator

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