SYLLABUS

Pre-travel Medicine and Consultation

4th edition · 2027 · Travel Medicine and Health in Mobile Populations training program

Key information

Dates: 8 Mar – 16 Apr 2027 (Monday 8 March to Friday 16 April)

Student dedication: 100 hours (6 weeks · approx. 16–17 h/week)

Credits: 4 ECTS

Modality: Online · asynchronous (Own pace, following the learning itinerary milestones and assessment deadlines)

Team

Course Director & Faculty Coordinator: Natalia Rodríguez Valero

Course Coordinator & Facilitator: Pedro Laynez Roldán

Faculty: Natalia Rodríguez Valero, Pedro Laynez Roldán, Teressa de Alba, Izar Blázquez

Content contributors: Claudia Flores, Inés Iglesias, Meritxell Saloni, Angeline Cruz

Instructional design & support: Education & Training Team, ISGlobal

About the course

Description: This course offers comprehensive training in the assessment of risks for travelers. Participants will learn through clinical cases how to provide informed guidance on the appropriate preventive measures to be taken before and during travel, within the context of pre-travel consultations.

Learning objective: Upon successful completion of the course participants should be able to perform a full pre-travel risk assessment.

Evaluation

The final grade will take into account participation in online forums, completion of interactive lessons, case studies and other materials, and an end-of-course summative assessment. It will be calculated as follows:

- **15%** **Forum participation**: at least 2 contributions required
- **25%** **Interactive lessons & materials**: interactive lessons, case studies and other materials
- **60%** **End-of-course assessment**: pre-travel assessment of a specific case scenario, presented as a written report

Resit: Students who do not achieve a passing grade on the end-of-course assessment will have the chance to complete an alternative activity. The resit must be completed and delivered within a maximum of two weeks (guidelines and terms will be specified by the course coordinators).

Course organisation

The course content is organised as follows:

Key course information and resources

- Video: How to use the virtual platform
- Teacher's speaker

- Discussions
- Schedule
- Syllabus
- Main resources

1. Initial risk assessment in pre-travel consultation

Specific learning objectives:

- *Discuss the distribution of endemic vaccine-preventable infections*
- *Carry out an effective search of updated outbreaks and emerging diseases reports*
- *Evaluate the traveler's risk of acquiring infections according to the geographic itinerary*

Learning materials:

- **Video pill:** Introduction to the course [Natalia Rodríguez Valero]
- **Interactive lesson 1:** Initial pre-travel risk assessment
- **Key resource:** Web resources for current outbreaks
- **Interactive lesson 2:** How to deal with outbreaks
- **Key resource:** Pre-travel form

Additional resources:

- Steffen R, Chen LH, Leggat PA. Travel vaccines – priorities determined by incidence and impact. J Travel Med. 2023 Nov 18;30(7):taad085. doi: 10.1093/jtm/taad085. PMID: 37341307.
- van Aalst M, Verhoeven R, Omar F, Stijnis C, van Vugt M, de Bree GJ, Goorhuis A, Grobusch MP. Pre-travel care for immunocompromised and chronically ill travellers: a retrospective study. Travel Med Infect Dis. 2017 Sep;19:37-48. doi: 10.1016/j.tmaid.2017.07.006. PMID: 28712659.
- Leggat PA, Franklin R. Risk perception and travelers. J Travel Med. 2013;20(1):1–2. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1708-8305.2012.00663.x

2. Traveler's immunizations

Specific learning objective:

- *Provide adequate vaccination recommendations based on the characteristics of the travel and traveler*

Learning materials:

General immunizations

- **Key concepts:** Basics of travelers' immunizations
- **Lecture notes:** General recommendations for travelers' immunizations
- **Interactive lesson 3:** Recommend vaccines for the travelers

Yellow fever vaccine

- **Key concepts:** Why does the yellow fever vaccine deserve special mention?
- **Live session:** Contraindications & side effects of yellow fever vaccination [Natalia Rodríguez Valero]
- **Key concepts:** Who to vaccinate and who not to vaccinate?

Additional resources:

- Reno E, Quan NG, Franco-Paredes C, Chastain DB, Chauhan L, Rodriguez-Morales AJ, Henao-Martínez AF. Prevention of yellow fever in travellers: an update. Lancet Infect Dis. 2020 Jun;20(6):e129-e137. doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099(20)30170-5. PMID: 32386609.

- Lewis J, Gregorian T, Portillo I, Goad J. Drug interactions with antimalarial medications in older travelers: a clinical guide. J Travel Med. 2020 Feb 3;27(1):taz089. doi: 10.1093/jtm/taz089. PMID: 31776555.

3. Malaria counseling in travelers

Specific learning objective:

- *Assess the risk of malaria and discuss different options to prevent it, including chemoprophylaxis, based on the characteristics of the trip and the traveler*

Learning materials:

- **Lecture notes:** Malaria prevention measures by country
- **Key resource:** Repellents
- **Key resource:** Antimalarial drugs for chemoprophylaxis
- **Interactive lesson 4:** The ABCD on malaria counseling
- **Interactive lesson 5:** SBET and clinical examples

Additional resources:

- Berthod D, Rochat J, Voumard R, et al. Self-diagnosis of malaria by travellers: a cohort study on the use of malaria rapid diagnostic tests provided by a Swiss travel clinic. Malar J. 2017;16:436. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12936-017-2079-2
- Tan R, Elmers J, Genton B. Malaria standby emergency treatment (SBET) for travellers visiting malaria endemic areas: a systematic review and meta-analysis. J Travel Med. 2019;26(4):taz027. https://doi.org/10.1093/jtm/taz027
- Ferrara P, Masuet-Aumatell C, Agüero F, Ramon-Torrell JM. The use of stand-by emergency treatment (SBET) for malaria in travellers: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies. J Infect. 2018 Dec;77(6):455-462. doi: 10.1016/j.jinf.2018.09.007.
- Lewis J, Gregorian T, Portillo I, Goad J. Drug interactions with antimalarial medications in older travelers: a clinical guide. J Travel Med. 2020 Feb 3;27(1):taz089. doi: 10.1093/jtm/taz089. PMID: 31776555.

4. Traveler's diarrhea & mountain sickness

Specific learning objectives:

- *Carry out advice on measures to prevent traveler's diarrhea and mountain sickness*
- *Evaluate the prophylaxis criteria for traveler's diarrhea and mountain sickness for different travel scenarios*

Learning materials:

- **Lecture notes:** Prevention measures for traveler's diarrhea
- **Interactive lesson 6:** Traveler's diarrhea
- **Key resource:** Prophylaxis recommendations for mountain sickness
- **Interactive lesson 7:** Mountain sickness

Additional resources:

- Sridharan K, Sivaramakrishnan G. Pharmacological interventions for preventing acute mountain sickness: a network meta-analysis and trial sequential analysis of randomized clinical trials. Ann Med. 2018;50(2):147-155. doi: 10.1080/07853890.2017.1407034

5. Environmental hazards & general advice

Specific learning objective:

- *Assess and recommend measures to prevent problems due to non-infectious diseases and environmental hazards*

Learning materials:

- **Key resource:** Environmental hazards and general tips
- **Key resource:** Special groups of travelers
- **Key resource:** 10 commandments for sustainable tourism – FundacióniO

Additional resources:

- Sridharan K, Sivaramakrishnan G. Pharmacological interventions for preventing acute mountain sickness: a network meta-analysis and trial sequential analysis of randomized clinical trials. Ann Med. 2018;50(2):147-155. doi: 10.1080/07853890.2017.1407034

6. Popular itineraries

Specific learning objective:

- *Recognize popular travel itineraries and use web tools to provide appropriate advice*

Learning materials:

- **Interactive lesson 8:** Asking for expert advice
  - **Interactive lesson 8.1:** Safari trip through Kenya and Tanzania
  - **Interactive lesson 8.2:** Visiting Peru
  - **Interactive lesson 8.3:** Middle East – Hajj pilgrimage
  - **Interactive lesson 8.4:** A trip to the Caribbean beach

Additional resources:

- CDC Yellow Book 2024 | Travelers' Health. Section 10: Popular Itineraries – Africa & the Middle East. https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2024/table-of-contents

7. Practical case scenarios

Specific learning objectives:

- *Apply knowledge of travel advice to real-life practical cases*
- *Identify pathologies occurring during travel that can be addressed through telemedicine*

Learning materials:

- **Live session:** Navigating the complexities of pre-travel health: clinical cases and telemedicine solutions

Additional resources:

- Rodriguez-Valero N, Carbayo ML, Camprubí-Ferrer D, Martí-Soler H, Sanchez DC, Vladimirov A, et al. Telemedicine for international travelers through a smartphone-based monitoring platform (Trip Doctor®). Travel Med Infect Dis. 2022;49:102356. doi: 10.1016/j.tmaid.2022.102356. PMID: 35589007.
- Rodriguez-Valero N, Ledesma-Carbayo MJ, Martí-Soler H, Cuadrado Sanchez D, Vladimirov A, Camprubí-Ferrer D, et al. A smartphone app for real-time assessment of malaria prophylaxis adverse events. Telemed J E Health. 2024 Jan 12. doi: 10.1089/tmj.2023.0200. PMID: 38215269.

This course has scientific endorsement of SEIMC and SEMTSI:

The opinions expressed by the authors do not necessarily reflect the official position of the SEIMC

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