

Travel and Health in the Elderly, Chapter 2

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PRE-TRAVEL RISK ASSESSMENT

The pre-travel health consultation provides opportunity to gather general and health data from potential travellers, to identify factors, which may impact on their health status while abroad and initiate measures to minimise or prevent adverse effects.

Creation of a personalised database is essential. Management requires consideration of potential hazards -untoward events, which may occur- and risk, which relates to the degree of chance that an event will occur. Many factors are involved. For instance, disease hazard in a country depends not only on its presence, but other elements such as climate, sanitation, water supply, disease vectors and carriers, with level of health risk determined by personal immunity, vaccination, and exposure to infection.

This chapter looks at the many factors affecting health risk for the older traveller And how they can be addressed in the pre-travel consultation.