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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 15 - 2006

Chikungunya Virus

To be applied to Whole Blood & Components Donor Selection Guidelines and all Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines

- Definition** Chikungunya endemic areas are defined in a [Position Statement on Chikungunya](#) available in the JPAC Document Library.
- Obligatory** **Must not donate if:**
 It is less than six months from a donor's return from a chikungunya endemic area and the donor has been diagnosed with chikungunya whilst there or following their return to the UK.

 It is less than six months from a donor's return from a chikungunya endemic area and the donor has either had a history of symptoms suggestive of chikungunya whilst there or following their return to the UK.

 In other cases it is less than four weeks from a donor's return from a chikungunya endemic area.
- Discretionary** All donors may be accepted six months after their return from an affected area. This may be reduced to four weeks if they have had neither symptoms or evidence of infection.
- See if relevant** [Travel Index](#)
[Malaria](#)
[Infection – Tropical](#)
- Additional Information** Chikungunya is an alpha virus that can cause a wide spectrum of disease. This may range from no or minimal symptoms to death. Most commonly it causes arthritis (typically in the knee, ankle and small joints of the extremities), high fever, and a maculopapular rash.

 It is geographically widespread but has reached epidemic proportions in parts of India and islands in the Indian Ocean since 2005. It is known to be spread by blood in symptomatic cases and on theoretical grounds could be spread by transfusion and transplantation of tissues and organs from people with pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic disease. A number of visitors returning from endemic areas to the UK have been diagnosed with this infection. It is spread by the same day-biting



mosquitoes as dengue.

As the problem can vary both in relation to geography and time of the year it is not possible to state areas from which donors need to be deferred and dates of disease activity. These are provided in the up to date [Position Statement on Chikungunya](#) available in the JPAC Document Library.

Reason for Change

This is a new entry following a formal risk assessment by the Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infection.

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