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Airport Stopovers: Clarification

Applies to the Geographical Disease Risk Index (GDRI) under the Malaria entry after (C), before the entry for HIV/AIDS and to all Donor Selection Guidelines.

See highlighted text below.

Malaria

Information concerning malaria risk has been sourced from Health Protection Scotland (<http://www.travax.nhs.uk>). Maps are included for some countries but the prime source of information must be taken from the country index. There is some apparent discrepancy between the maps and the written information given for some countries. It is hoped that this will be resolved for future editions.

Countries with malarial risk have been categorised into three groups: -

- A. Countries where the malarial risk is present in the whole country all year or a with very clear seasonal pattern. No map is included for these countries.
- B. Countries where only parts of the country are affected and a map is provided to allow accurate assessment of risk. These maps have been included to facilitate the donor and health care professional to accurately identify the areas concerned and assess the risks. The maps are included as Appendix 1 of the Geographical Disease Risk Index.
- C. Indicates that only part of the country is affected in discrete pockets, or the risk of infection is low or that there are few visitors to the affected areas. No map is provided for these countries. It is likely that tourists who visit these countries will be able to donate but individual assessment must be applied. Donors are likely to have detailed knowledge of the malarial areas visited. The health care professional should establish whether the donor sought advice prior to travel or not and if they were advised to take anti malarial precautions.

Airport Stopovers

The definition of an Airport Stopover, as approved by The Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infections, is: **A transit through an airport during which the traveller has not left the airport.**

When the donor's visit has consisted **only** of an airport stopover there is no need to refer to the Geographic Disease Risk Index.



HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS is common in some areas of the world, and sexual activity with partners in these countries carries a risk of infection. This Index identifies the countries of Sub Saharan Africa to facilitate interpretation of the guidance. However the health care professional should consider all other risks of HIV associated with travel and remember that this is not restricted to Sub Saharan Africa.

If the donor reports sexual activity with a partner in one of the countries listed as Sub Saharan Africa in the table, or with a partner who may have been sexually active in one of these areas, refer to the Blood Safety Entry in the Donor Selection Guidelines.

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