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**Implementation:** To be determined by each Service

## **Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 3 - 2006**

### **West Nile Virus**

**Applies to Whole Blood and Component Donor Selection Guidelines and Tissue Donor Selection Guidelines (Deceased Donors, Live Donors, Cord Blood and Bone Marrow & PBSC)**

<b>Definition</b>	West Nile Virus (WNV) endemic areas are defined in a Position Statement available in the JPAC Document Library at <a href="http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk">www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk</a>
<b>Obligatory</b>	<p><b>Must not donate if:</b></p> <p>It is less than six months from a donor's return from a WNV endemic area and the donor has been diagnosed with WNV whilst there or following their return to the UK.</p> <p>It is less than six months from a donor's return from a WNV endemic area and the donor has either had a history of symptoms suggestive of WNV whilst there or following their return to the UK.</p> <p>In other cases it is less than four weeks from a donor's return from a WNV endemic area.</p>
<b>Discretionary</b>	<p>All donors may be accepted six months after their return from an affected area. This may be reduced to four weeks if they have not had either symptoms or evidence of infection.</p> <p>For donors who have been back in the UK for less than four weeks, who have not been infected, and who have not had symptoms suggestive of WNV infection, if a validated NAT for WNV is negative, accept.</p>
<b>See if Relevant</b>	<p>Travel Index</p> <p>Malaria</p> <p>South American Trypanosomiasis Risk</p> <p>Infection - Tropical</p>
<b>Additional Information</b>	West Nile Virus is a flavivirus, similar to Dengue, which causes a wide spectrum of infection. This may range from no or minimal symptoms to



death. It is geographically widespread but has reached epidemic proportions in North America in recent years. There it has caused illness and death post transfusion and post transplantation of tissues and organs. It is spread by mosquitoes and so is more prevalent at times of the year when mosquitoes are active.

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 posted in the JPAC Document Library at [www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk](http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk).

#### Reason for Change

The entry has been revised following a reassessment of risk by the Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infection and the issuing of an updated Position Statement available in the JPAC Document Library at [www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk](http://www.transfusionguidelines.org.uk).

There is now a deferral period of six months following either infection or symptoms suggestive of infection with WNV.

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