

## Joint UKBTS / NIBSC Professional Advisory Committee <sup>(1)</sup> Summary Sheet

<b>1. Paper for the JPAC meeting on:</b>	12 March 2009
<b>2. Date submitted:</b>	13 February 2008
<b>3. Title (including version no.):</b>	Chikungunya virus infection: Ravenna region of Italy
<b>4. Author(s):</b>	Patricia Hewitt for SACTTI
<b>5. Brief summary:</b>	<p>In June 2006, SACTTI made recommendations to JPAC with respect to the chikungunya outbreak in the Indian Ocean islands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There should be a period of deferral for asymptomatic donors returning from areas affected by chikungunya virus which are not currently covered by malaria exclusion criteria.</li> <li>2. A 28 day deferral period from the date of return to the UK is a reasonable and pragmatic period which is consistent with deferral for West Nile virus and therefore may be operationally less demanding to implement.</li> <li>3. In the light of possible prolonged viraemia in patients who have had chikungunya virus polyarthralgia, a pragmatic period of deferral would be 6 months from recovery, consistent with selection criteria for West Nile virus.</li> </ol> <p>In August/ September 2007 a small outbreak of Chikungunya virus infection occurred in the Ravenna area of northern Italy. SACTTI recommended to the UK blood services that the above guidelines should be applied to travellers returning from the affected area and that the advice should be reviewed in early 2008. At that time it was decided to continue the deferral through the 2008 mosquito season in case there was any re-appearance of infection.</p> <p>There were no further cases of Chikungunya virus infection in northern Italy in 2008. It is therefore appropriate to remove the travel deferral for UK blood donors.</p>
<b>6. Action required by JPAC:</b> (What do you want JPAC to do in response to this paper?) e.g.	Endorse the recommendation to remove the deferral of donors who have recently returned from the Ravenna region of northern Italy, with immediate effect.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• endorse a specific recommendation</li> <li>• advise where there is a choice of possible actions</li> <li>• advise on priorities within the work plan</li> <li>• provide a steer on policy</li> </ul>	
<b>7. Any other relevant information:</b>	

<sup>(1)</sup> Joint United Kingdom Blood Transfusion Services and National Institute for Biological Standards and Control Professional Advisory Committee