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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 11 - 2011

West Nile Virus (WNV)

Applies to All Donor Selection Guidelines

Definition	West Nile Virus (WNV) Endemic Areas: These are shown in the 'Geographical Disease Risk Index' (GDRI).
Obligatory	Must not donate if: a) 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. b) 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. c) In other cases it is less than four weeks from a donor's return from a WNV 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 nor evidence of infection.
See if relevant	<u>The 'Geographical Disease Risk Index'</u>
Additional Information	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, including areas in Europe and other parts of the world not affected by Malaria, and it has reached epidemic proportions in North America in recent years. There it has caused illness and death post

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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 'Geographical Disease Risk Index'.

A 'Position Statement on West Nile Virus (WNV)' is available in the 'Document Library' of 'www.transfusionguidelines.org'.

Reason for Change The entry has been revised following further outbreaks.

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