



CENTRO
NAZIONALE
SANGUE



ITALY

Synthesis of the measures for the prevention of WNV transfusion transmission – 2015

As of June 2015

GENERAL MEASURES

- Active integrated entomologic and veterinary WNV surveillance in place since May 15th in the Regions Piedmont, Lombardy, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto and Emilia-Romagna, based on a shared plan able to guarantee a homogeneous and standardized surveillance of viral circulation.
- In all the other Regions adoption of the national veterinary surveillance plan, set by the Ministry of Health with the Decree of 27th November 2007.
- Active surveillance of neuro-invasive WNV disease in humans systematically in place nationwide / year round, according to the provisions annually issued by the Ministry of Health with a specific circular on the measures for the surveillance of Arbovirosis.
- Constant and efficient communication and collaboration among all the involved institutional healthcare bodies (Regional Public Health Services, National Institute of Health, National Veterinary Reference Centre for WNV, Ministry of Health, Regional Blood Centres, National Blood Centre).
- National Epidemiology Centre's dedicated website for the notification and online consultation of probable/confirmed cases of WNV human disease, including WNV NAT positive blood donors since the current year.

SPECIFIC MEASURES

Blood donor selection and haemovigilance

- Strengthening pre-donation questionnaire and donor physical examination on (even mild) flu-like symptoms.
- Strengthening post-donation information on (even mild) flu-like symptoms.
- Implementation of *ad hoc* haemovigilance procedures.

Trigger criteria for the implementation of WNV NAT testing from June until October

- Notification of WNV circulation through entomological (vector mosquitoes) and veterinary surveillance (wild birds) in the Regions where the integrated surveillance plan is in place.
 - Notification of WNV human case (neuro-invasive and non neuro-invasive disease);
- In case of a) and/or b):** WNV NAT testing shall be timely introduced in the interested provincial areas (administrative districts) and shall be performed by ID technique. Testing shall be continued until the end of the surveillance season.

Blood donor deferral

Nationwide, all donors having been for at least one night in the provinces where WNV NAT testing is introduced as a consequence of the trigger criteria a) and/or b) shall be deferred for 28 days. Alternatively, in order to avoid critical blood shortages, donors can be admitted to donate provided their donations are tested by ID WNV NAT.

Nationwide 28 day deferral remains applied year round to all donors coming back from the **USA** and **Canada**. Alternatively, in order to avoid critical blood shortages, donors can be admitted to donate provided their donations are tested by ID WNV NAT.