

Notice Information: Human Medicines - Advisory 21 November 2008

Part 1. Product Information

a) Title: Commission issue Update regarding West Nile Virus Cases in Europe

b) Product Name/Type: Blood components intended for transfusion; Tissues & cells for human application

Part 2. Target Audience

a) Target Audience: Blood Establishments & Tissue Establishments including Procurement Organisations

Part 3. Problem/Issue

a) Problem/Issue: The European Commission has provided an update to all Competent Authorities for Blood and Blood Components and Tissues and Cells on the occurrences of West Nile Virus in parts of Europe in recent months. The text of this update is available below for information. Additional documents circulated by the European Commission for information are also available. Please note that this update includes information on the identification of cases in areas of Hungary and Romania. This is in addition to the cases identified in the Bologna and Ferrara Districts of Italy.

Part 4. Background Information

a) Background Information: Link to: Update from European Commission – West Nile Virus Euosurveillance – WNV Infections in Hungary August – September 2008 ECDC – WNV Threat Assessment WNV – Romania_1 WNV – Romania_2

Part 5. Action to be taken

a) Action to be taken: Where relevant, appropriate donor screening measures (i.e. amendment of donor selection criteria to include donor travel history questions) and deferrals should be implemented for donors who have visited these areas so as to ensure the safety of blood and tissues and cells collected and procured in Ireland

Part 6. Enquiries

- a) All enquiries should be made to:

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Irish Medicines Board.

Part 7. Keywords

- a) Keywords:

West Nile Virus, Blood, Tissues and Cells