

### **What is West Nile Virus?**

West Nile virus (WNV) is an infectious disease that is primarily spread by the bite of an infected mosquito. WNV was first reported in the United States in 1999, and has been found in nearly every state to date. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, roughly 2,500 cases of WNV were seen in the United States in 2013.<sup>1</sup>

Approximately 80% of those infected show no symptoms at all. Twenty percent of infected individuals display mild symptoms within 3 to 14 days after being bitten, lasting for a few days. One in 150 develop severe symptoms that may last several weeks, and result in encephalitis, permanent neurological damage, or death. Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent WNV infection in humans.

### **Is transmission of WNV through an allograft possible?**

Although transmission of WNV through blood transfusions and organ transplantations have been reported in a small number of cases, there have been no reports of WNV transmission through allograft tissue to date. Testing for WNV in allograft tissue is not required at this time.

### **How does LifeNet Health's Allowash XG<sup>®</sup> process reduce the risk of WNV transmission?**

LifeNet Health utilizes the Donor Risk Assessment Interview, which is comprised of more than 30 categories of questions designed to uncover situations in any potential donor that would preclude the donation process. When administered by a properly trained medical professional, the likelihood of transmission of viral, bacterial, fungal, prion, and other pathogens becomes remote. All donors accepted for tissue recovery are subjected to a rigorous screening and testing process that exceeds the requirements set forth by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the American Association of Tissue Banks (AATB).

LifeNet Health's Allowash XG technology encompasses a comprehensive, patented and validated process, during which greater than 99% of bone marrow and blood elements are removed from the internal bone matrix. This process, along with subsequent chemical treatment and sterilization steps, has been shown to render tissue sterile to a Sterility Assurance Level (SAL) of  $10^{-6}$ . It also inactivates enveloped and non-enveloped viruses, without compromising the biomechanical or biochemical properties of the tissue as needed for its intended surgical application.

Since 1995, over 4 million bio-implants processed using Allowash Technology have been distributed by LifeNet Health, with no disease transmission.

LifeNet Health can be contacted at any time at 1-888-847-7831 or (757)-464-4761 should questions arise regarding screening of donors for potential viral and bacterial diseases.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.cdc.gov/westnile/statsMaps/finalMapsData/index.html>