

### **What is SARS?**

Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV). SARS was first discovered in Asia in February 2003, and spread to more than two dozen countries in North America, South America, Europe, and Asia, before the SARS global outbreak was contained in late 2003. SARS is thought to spread primarily through close person-to-person contact and droplet infection. There are currently no treatments or vaccines for SARS.

In general, SARS begins with a high fever. Other symptoms may include headache, an overall feeling of discomfort, and body aches. Some people also experience mild respiratory symptoms at the outset, as well as a dry cough after two to seven days. The majority of patients develop pneumonia or respiratory distress syndrome.

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

Although transmission of SARS through blood transfusions as well as organ and tissue transplantation cannot be completely ruled out, there have been no reports of SARS transmission through allograft tissue to date. Laboratory screening tests for the SARS virus are not available at this time.

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

LifeNet Health utilizes the Donor Risk Assessment Interview (DRAI), which is comprised of more than 30 categories of questions designed to uncover situations in any potential donor that would preclude the donation process. In the case of SARS, screening is performed specifically during periods in which an outbreak of the disease has been identified. 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.