

For our April ePostcard we would like to provide some helpful tips and reminders for completing tickborne disease (TBD) case investigation and follow up. We know that the burden of TBD case investigation steadily increases in the spring and summer months and we hope some of these tips and strategies for prioritizing follow up will be helpful.



## General points to keep in mind:

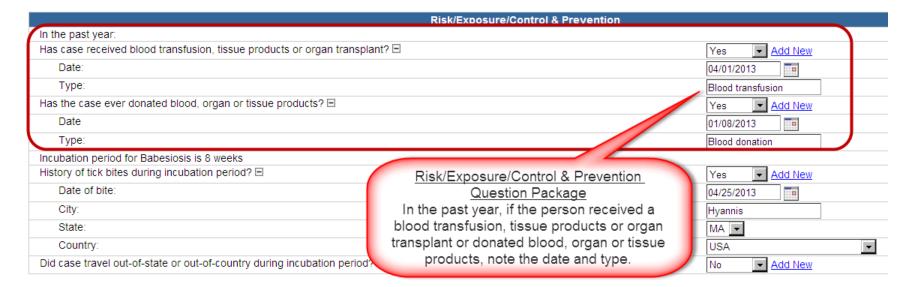
- A positive lab result does not necessarily indicate presence of disease. It is recommended that you ALWAYS contact the provider to confirm the diagnosis and obtain clinical info *before* contacting a patient.
- If a patient has NOT been given a diagnosis of infection with a TBD, further case investigation is NOT required.

## **Prioritizing TBD follow-up:**

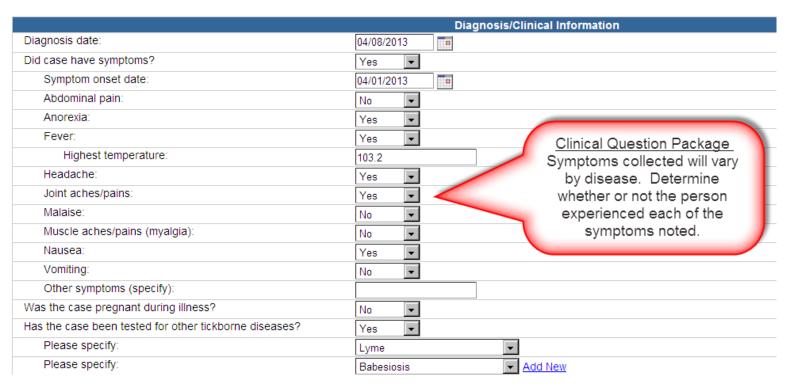
- **Babesiosis** can be transmitted by blood transfusion; therefore, these suspect cases should be followed up promptly and prioritized accordingly to rule out recent blood transfusion or donation.
- Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis (HGA) has been emerging into new areas of Massachusetts; therefore, these suspect events should be a second priority following babesiosis events.
- Ehrlichiosis and Rocky Mountain spotted fever are exceedingly rare in Massachusetts and follow up of these suspect events can be prioritized after babesiosis and HGA events.
- TBD cases with positive PCR results are more likely to represent actual cases of infection, than those with only
  positive serologic findings. Follow up of PCR positive events can be prioritized over those with only positive
  serology.

## **MAVEN Reminders**:

 For babesiosis events, be sure to complete the blood donation/transfusion questions found in the Risk/Exposure/Control & Prevention Question Package as shown below:



• For all TBD events, complete the clinical information question package including symptom information and whether or not the case was hospitalized and their outcome. Clinical information is critical to accurately classify cases and assess disease burden in your city or town.



Hospitalization/Clinician/PCP Information		
Was case hospitalized? ⊟	Yes Add New	
Date hospitalized:	04/02/2013	
Hospital name:	Brigham and Women's Hospital - 75 Francis Street, MA	Clinical Question Package
Additional hospital telephone #:	(617) 732-5501	Note information regarding any
Date discharged:	04/04/2013	hospitalization as well as the person's
Hospital medical record/chart number	456789	outcome related to this event.
Outcome:	Recovered -	



Please refer to the Tip Sheet for Follow up of Suspect Cases of Tickborne Disease in the MAVEN online help section for more information.

If you have questions about MAVEN, please email <u>isishelp@state.ma.us</u> or contact the MAVEN help desk at 617-983-6801. If you have questions about tickborne disease investigation, please contact the Epidemiology Program at 617-983-6800.