

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:

| Risk/Exposure/Control & Prevention | |
|--|--|
| In the past year: | |
| Has case received blood transfusion, tissue products or organ transplant? <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="button" value="Add New"/> |
| Date: | 04/01/2013 <input type="button" value="Calendar"/> |
| Type: | Blood transfusion |
| Has the case ever donated blood, organ or tissue products? <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="button" value="Add New"/> |
| Date: | 01/08/2013 <input type="button" value="Calendar"/> |
| Type: | Blood donation |
| Incubation period for Babesiosis is 8 weeks | |
| History of tick bites during incubation period? <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="button" value="Add New"/> |
| Date of bite: | 04/25/2013 <input type="button" value="Calendar"/> |
| City: | Hyannis |
| State: | MA <input type="button" value="Add New"/> |
| Country: | USA <input type="button" value="Add New"/> |
| Did case travel out-of-state or out-of-country during incubation period? | No <input type="button" value="Add New"/> |

**Risk/Exposure/Control & Prevention
Question Package**

In the past year, if the person received a blood transfusion, tissue products or organ transplant or donated blood, organ or tissue products, note the date and type.

- 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.

| Diagnosis/Clinical Information | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Diagnosis date: | 04/08/2013 |
| Did case have symptoms? | Yes |
| Symptom onset date: | 04/01/2013 |
| Abdominal pain: | No |
| Anorexia: | Yes |
| Fever: | Yes |
| Highest temperature: | 103.2 |
| Headache: | Yes |
| Joint aches/pains: | Yes |
| Malaise: | No |
| Muscle aches/pains (myalgia): | No |
| Nausea: | Yes |
| Vomiting: | No |
| Other symptoms (specify): | |
| Was the case pregnant during illness? | No |
| Has the case been tested for other tickborne diseases? | Yes |
| Please specify: | Lyme |
| Please specify: | Babesiosis Add New |

Clinical Question Package
Symptoms collected will vary by disease. Determine whether or not the person experienced each of the symptoms noted.

| Hospitalization/Clinician/PCP Information | |
|---|--|
| Was case hospitalized? <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes Add New |
| Date hospitalized: | 04/02/2013 |
| Hospital name: | Brigham and Women's Hospital - 75 Francis Street, Boston, MA |
| Additional hospital telephone #: | (617) 732-5501 |
| Date discharged: | 04/04/2013 |
| Hospital medical record/chart number | 456789 |
| Outcome: | Recovered |

Clinical Question Package
Note information regarding any hospitalization as well as the person's outcome related to this event.



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 isishelp@state.ma.us 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.