Carter BloodCare

Date: August 4, 2016

To: Transfusion Facilities

From: Laurie J. Sutor, MD, MBA
Vice President of Medical and Technical Services

Subject: Status of Zika Virus and Carter BloodCare

With all the news about Zika virus, many of you may be wondering what Carter BloodCare is doing to keep abreast of the ongoing Zika developments and maintain a safe blood supply. Let me update you on our activities in this area:

1) We are working closely with state and local health officials to stay current on the conditions here in Texas, and to maintain good communications with our health authority.
2) We have implemented recommended FDA and AABB safety steps for protecting our blood components:
    a. Screening donors for travel to high risk areas (including key parts of Florida as of July 30) and deferring them for 28 days
    b. Having a mechanism to defer donors for sexual risk and signs and symptoms of Zika virus infection.
3) We are working with our testing laboratory to enroll in the Zika NAT investigational test IND so that if Zika virus starts to be transmitted locally by mosquitoes in Texas we can implement testing of donors here.

You may occasionally see a unit of blood from another blood center that has been labeled as Zika tested. Remember that there is no requirement for Zika testing at this time, and the Zika test is not FDA approved for widespread use for blood donor testing. We will start testing Carter BloodCare donors for Zika if there is evidence of local transmission by mosquitoes.

Note that if we start Zika testing in our area, under the terms of the Investigational New Device (IND) study, hospitals will be asked to alter their patient blood consent for high risk patients, namely pregnant women and fetuses in utero, to address this IND testing.

Feel free to contact me (lsutor@carterbloodcare.org or 817-412-5601) or Veronica Moore (vmoore@carterbloodcare.org or 817-412-5328) with any questions or concerns. We will keep you updated as or if the situation changes.