

The Impact of the AABB West Nile Virus Neighbor Policy on Inappropriately Tested Donations

Background

In April of 2007, the AABB released Association Bulletin #07-02, West Nile Virus - Recommendations for Triggering Individual Donation Nucleic Acid Testing and Developing a Communication Plan. This directive included a newly defined geographic triggering criterion (a.k.a. neighbor policy) evoking secondary triggers.

Study

Individual Donor Screening (IDS) testing had been performed in previous years due to specific incidence rate data (Primary Trigger) or due to elective testing (Self Trigger). In response to the new more complex IDS neighbor policy (Secondary Trigger) a software system was developed that correlated trigger status data from 1) a Trigger database, 2) our Laboratory Information System (LIS) and, 3) minipool (MP) test data from the Nucleic Acid Testing (NAT) LIS. This system generated a report to identify samples that were inappropriately tested as MP when they should have been tested individually. The samples that were inappropriately MP tested were then retested individually to ensure compliance with the AABB bulletin.

Study (cont.)

| <i>Inappropriately tested WNV Donations 2007¹</i> | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | # clients triggered on | Primary triggers | Secondary triggers | Self triggers | Multiple ³ triggers | Inappropriately Tested samples ⁴ | Inappropriately Tested clients |
| August | 38 | 6 | 6 ² | 28 | 17 | 277 | 8 |
| September | 31 | 5 | 7 ² | 21 | 13 | 331 | 11 |
| October | 9 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| November | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 112 | 2 |

¹ Due to a change in tracking methodology, the data set starts in Aug 2007
² Primary and secondary triggers in the same month
³ A client triggered on more than once in a given month
⁴ *Inappropriately* refers to donations initially tested as MP that had to be retested as IDS. Includes retesting of samples because of a trigger to an earlier collection date

Conclusion

As expected, the neighbor policy presented a complex trigger monitoring and IDS testing process during the 2007 epidemic season. Development of specialized data mining and special reporting tools (e.g.: Crystal Reports) were used effectively to address the complicated multi-criteria algorithms.

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Session I

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