JOURNAL-BASED LEARNING EXERCISES

Each article’s contents should be read, researched and understood, and you should then come to a decision on each question. The pass mark is 17 out of 20 questions answered correctly. JBL exercises may be completed at any time until the published deadline date. Please select your choice of correct answers and complete the exercises online at: www.ibms.org/cpd/jbl

DEADLINE WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2018


01 West Nile virus can be transmitted vertically.
02 Most West Nile virus infections in birds are asymptomatic.
03 West Nile fever in humans is a notifiable disease in all countries of the UK.
04 The first cases of local transmission in Austria were diagnosed using molecular diagnostic methods.
05 All suspected equine West Nile fever cases in the UK must be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency.
06 Around a quarter of horses infected with West Nile virus display neurological symptoms.
07 Data for all five countries considered in the paper show that the highest number of infections in horses was recorded in 2013 in all cases.
08 In Greece, mosquitoes are actively monitored for West Nile virus carriage between June and October.
09 During 2010 and 2015, 55 times more birds were tested for West Nile virus infection in the UK than in France.
10 The mosquito Culex modestus, which can act as a vector for West Nile virus, has been identified in the UK in the 21st century.
11 Approximately 1% of the birds surveyed for West Nile virus in Italy had evidence of infection with the virus.
12 Outbreaks of West Nile encephalomyelitis in European Union countries should be reported to the European Commission and the World Organization for Animal Health.
13 Published studies have demonstrated West Nile virus RNA in migratory wild birds in the UK.
14 In Austria, surveillance of birds for West Nile virus is conducted in birds sampled for avian influenza infection.
15 Inactivated and recombinant vaccines are available and can be used to prevent West Nile disease in humans.
16 There is increased vigilance for human cases of neuroinvasive West Nile fever in the Mediterranean region of France during the West Nile season.
17 Neurological disease in horses associated with West Nile fever infection is notifiable across the European Union.
18 There is no risk of transmission of West Nile virus from asymptomatic infection in blood or tissue donors.
19 Between 2009 and 2015 there were 13 confirmed cases of West Nile fever in humans in Austria.
20 Serological surveillance for antibodies to West Nile virus in horses is always useful in identifying places and times where humans would be at risk from the infection.


01 To take consolidation forwards there will be a toolkit and support activities.
02 All hospitals will still have local laboratories.
03 London pathology services will be in four networks.
04 The Midlands and East 7 will break even, making no savings.
05 Future efficiency savings could be as high as £2.2 billion.
06 The data collected allow for a comparison overall, regional and local performance on an annual recurrent basis.
07 Network South 2 will make proportionally the highest savings.
08 Laboratories are included in the networks even if outsourced.
09 It is deemed unlikely that staff career opportunities will be improved under the new plans.
10 The Isle of Man, Channel Islands and Isle of Wight are not included.
11 Other than Midlands and East 7, all networks are expected to make savings of at least 3%.
12 NHSI has mandated the establishment of 29 pathology networks in the United Kingdom.
13 We can be fully confident that all savings will be achieved.
14 NHSI is keen to see patient engagement in this process, which is designed for patient benefit as well as generating savings.
15 North 1, North 5 and Midlands and East 2 all have two hubs.
16 Centralising pathology services will mean patients will probably have to travel further for services.
17 According to NHSI figures, the average cost of a pathology test is £1.96.
18 The changes aim to cover better screening and new genetic testing.
19 Networks are aimed at bringing together clinical expertise.

REFLECTIVE LEARNING

01 Discuss whether serological testing for anti-West Nile virus antibody is suitable for screening blood and tissue from asymptomatic donors.
02 Evaluate the risk to human health from other vector-borne viruses emerging in Europe.
01 If you were to undertake this exercise, what criteria would you use for deciding the number and location of hubs and networks, taking into account emergency and contingency planning?
02 What would be the major hurdles that need to be overcome in order to maximise efficiencies and patient benefits?