

## **A2 Guidelines for assessing presence of Hazard Group 4 pathogens in a cadaver**

- A2.1 Blood from the patient, taken before or after death, is to be tested for the main viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHFs), dengue, yellow fever, falciparum malaria, Nipah virus and leptospirosis. The Public Health Laboratory Service (Colindale) and Centre for Applied Microbiological Research (Porton Down) laboratories can do this in a working day if the samples are couriered. The geographical history of the patient is important in determining whether the patient could realistically have acquired a VHF or the other infections that clinically mimic VHF (malaria, leptospirosis, dengue, Nipah).
- A2.2 If these tests show absence of the viral infections but presence of falciparum malaria or leptospirosis, then the autopsy is safe to perform under standard conditions.
- A2.3 If Nipah virus infection is demonstrated, referral to a specialist centre can be considered or the autopsy not done.
- A2.4 If dengue or yellow fever virus infection is demonstrated, the autopsy can be done under enhanced HG#3 conditions (i.e. as for HIV infection).
- A2.5 If a VHF is confirmed, then the autopsy is not done.