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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 21 - 2013

South American Trypanosomiasis

Applies to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines only

Also Known As Chagas disease.

1. Affected Individual

Obligatory **Must not donate**

Additional Information South American trypanosomiasis is caused by infection with a protozoal parasite, *trypanosoma cruzi*. It is a persistent infection that is known to be transmitted by transfusion. At present there is no certain cure for the infection, so anyone who has ever been infected cannot donate.

Information This is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.

Reason for Change 'Additional Information' has been added.

2. Risk

Obligatory **Must not donate if:**

- a) Born in South America or Central America (including Southern Mexico).
- b) Mother was born in South America or Central America (including Southern Mexico).
- c) Has had a transfusion in South America or Central America (including Southern Mexico).
- d) Has lived and/or worked in rural subsistence farming communities in these countries for a continuous period of four weeks or more.

Discretionary If at least six months following the date of last exposure, a validated test for *T.cruzi* antibody is negative, accept.

See if Relevant Geographical Disease Risk Index for countries with *T. cruzi* risk

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Additional Information

Infection with *T. cruzi* is very common in many parts of South or Central America and is often symptomless. It can be passed from an infected mother to her unborn baby and by transfusion. The insect that passes the infection on is only common in rural areas and the greater time that an individual has spent living in housing conditions with thatched roofs or mud lined walls which harbour the insect vector, the greater their risk of becoming infected. Testing is available and should be performed if there is a possibility of infection. Waiting six months from the last time of exposure allows time for the antibodies that are tested for to develop.


Camping or trekking in the jungle in South or Central America (including Southern Mexico) is not considered of high enough risk to merit exclusion.

Information

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Reason for Change

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