

Issued by JPAC: 19 January 2021

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 58 - 2020

South American Trypanosomiasis

This change applies to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines

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~~ four months following the date of last exposure (or if transfused prior to 1980) and a validated test for ~~T. cruzi~~ *T. cruzi* antibody is negative, accept.

See if Relevant

[Geographical Disease Risk Index](#) for countries with ~~T. cruzi~~ *T. cruzi* risk [Transfusion](#)

Additional Information

Infection with ~~T. cruzi~~ *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~~ four 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

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

\Continued

Reason for change

~~Discretion has been amended.~~ Geographical description of risk areas amended to include all Mexico. Also reduction of deferral period before testing from six months to four months.

Sheila MacLennan

Dr Sheila MacLennan
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee
☎ Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638 ✉ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk