



## Chagas Lifetime Testing Policy LS-Policy-5016

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<b>Overview</b>	This is the policy for <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> ( <i>T. cruzi</i> ) antibody testing (Chagas testing) of blood products collected by LifeServe Blood Center.
<b>Policy</b>	Each donor will be tested on one occasion for Chagas.
<b>Rationale</b>	<p><i>T. cruzi</i> is a parasite transmitted by the Reduviid bug found in South America, Central America, and Mexico. On rare occasions, <i>T. cruzi</i> can be transfusion transmitted. A test for Chagas is available to screen blood donors, and many blood centers in the US have used this assay for each donation over the past few years. In this time, few true positives have been found</p> <p>At an FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting, expert testimony indicated that the overwhelming majority of individuals in the US who are positive for Chagas became infected during childhood in an endemic country. BPAC supported the concept of testing a blood donor on one occasion, and this is LifeServe's approach. LifeServe is confident that this policy will bring the already very low risk of transfusion transmission of Chagas disease to essentially zero. Testing of blood donors on one occasion started in April, 2009 at The Blood Center of Iowa. Testing of blood donors on one occasion started in January 2010 at Siouxland Community Blood Bank.</p>

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