



Advancing Transfusion and  
Cellular Therapies Worldwide

01/14/2020

Dear AABB Chagas Biovigilance Network Platform user :

I am writing to inform you that the AABB Chagas Biovigilance Network platform will cease operations on February 14, 2020.

The AABB Chagas Biovigilance Network platform was established in 2007 to collect, report and analyze screening and confirmatory results from the testing of blood donors for antibodies to *Trypanosoma cruzi*. Since its initiation, the system has collected more than 15,000 total reactive cases with more than 2,400 confirmed-positive cases from AABB member blood collection facilities.

Throughout the past decade, as the knowledge and strategies to address the risk associated with transfusion-transmitted Chagas diseases have matured, we are proud that AABB Chagas Biovigilance Network data have regularly been referenced by regulatory bodies and researchers. Results of an incidence study discussed at the August 2, 2011 Blood Products Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting identified zero incident cases of *T. cruzi* infection in more than 4.2 million donors during a four year period and low (0.8%) risk of transfusion-transmitted *T. cruzi* infection from a seropositive donor. The December 2017 FDA guidance recommendation states removing the donor screening question and implementing one-time donor testing to identify risk for transfusion-transmission of Chagas disease as adequate and appropriate.

During a recent evaluation of the utility of the platform, participating blood centers responded that the platform data were not being utilized for donor deferral decision making and were of limited use as a resource for epidemiological research. In the absence of any application to improve blood safety and considering reporting burden to our members, AABB has decided to sunset the platform.

AABB appreciates your participation in the platform. Many of you know firsthand about the excellent work done by Srijana Rajbhandary in support of our data collection projects. Thanks to her work, AABB will continue to pursue projects around data collection that benefit our community, as well as our donors and our patients. We will also continue to support the West Nile Virus and Zika Biovigilance Network platforms as part of AABB's mission to improve blood safety. Participating facilities can request a copy of the data they submitted to the Chagas platform by emailing [hemovigilance@aabb.org](mailto:hemovigilance@aabb.org).

AABB hopes that this notification allows sufficient time for your blood center to update your standard operating procedure. Please contact [hemovigilance@aabb.org](mailto:hemovigilance@aabb.org) if you have any questions or would like to request a revised timeline.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eduardo', with a long, sweeping underline.

Eduardo Nunes, MPP, CAE  
Vice President  
Quality Systems, Standards, and Accreditation  
AABB