

Selection Criteria for GeoSentinel Sites

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF A GESENTINEL SITE:

GeoSentinel Sites are specialized travel/tropical medicine clinics that have demonstrated training, experience, and/or significant publication in travel/tropical medicine in order to contribute clinician-based sentinel surveillance on all patients seen for a presumed travel-related illness.

Specific Attributes:

The clinic facility

The patient care setting should be widely recognized by both patients and the medical community as a specialized tropical/travel medicine unit. In the case of 'destination' clinics the setting should be recognized as one that caters specifically to the medical needs of travelers and/or expatriates at that destination.

The clinicians

The Site Director, any Co-Director, as well as the majority of clinicians determining diagnoses to be entered into the GeoSentinel database should have specific documented training (e.g., DTMH, Certification in Tropical or Infectious Diseases) or significant patient care experience over many years with patients with tropical and travel related disease. Peer-reviewed publications in travel/tropical medicine are a desirable attribute.

The patient population

While a broad spectrum of travelers and immigrants are desirable, sites may also be recruited based on ability to contribute predominantly from a population not well represented amongst current GeoSentinel Sites. Examples of such populations may include recent immigrants, pediatric populations, expatriates or travelers returning from particular geographic regions.

The geographic location of the clinic

Potential sites that would fill an obvious large geographic gap in GeoSentinel clinic locations will be given special consideration. Cities with a major international airline hub airport are a priority. New sites in a country or region that have existing GeoSentinel Sites may be chosen for their ability to provide data on specific patient populations that are under-represented in the patient records of nearby sites.