



November 26, 2018

25 La Grave Street
Winnipeg, MB
R3V 1J1

The Honourable Ginette Petitpas-Taylor, PC, MP
Minister of Health of Canada
70 Colombine Driveway
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Canadian Immunodeficiencies Patient Organization (CIPO), and the Canadians whose lives are affected by Primary Immunodeficiency. PI patients are born with an immune system that is either broken, or malfunctioning, putting them at constant risk for infections and other illnesses. For us there is no cure, but there is a treatment in Immune Globulin therapy. This treatment is made directly from human plasma, which makes up 55% of our blood.

At this time, CIPO is in support of Canadian Blood Services' submission to Health Canada to amend the deferral period for Men having Sex with Men (MSM) from 6 months to 3 months. We feel this shorter time based deferral is supported by scientific evidence, and allows for a long enough time period to ensure blood and blood product safety.

We feel this move is within keeping with global policies, as many other countries are also reviewing their time based deferrals.

We feel that we have been well briefed by Canadian Blood Services and have had plenty of evidence, and enough opportunity to input into this process.

At this time, we do not feel a behavior based donation model can work in Canada, and that a time based deferral system be maintained.

We also request that Canadian Blood Services investigate MSM and other deferrals as possible plasma donors.

Thank you,
Whitney Goulstone
Executive Director
CIPO National

Cc: Simon Kennedy, Deputy Minister

Pierre Sabourin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Products and Food Branch (HPFB) Health Canada

Cathy Parker, Acting Director General, Biologics & Genetic Therapies Directorate, (HPFB) Health Canada:

Dr. Graham Sher