

Julia Evans

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Hello,

I'm writing to express my support in changing the policy for MSM (men who have sex with men) blood donation. I am specifically supporting change to a three-month based deferral. This is in line with the evidence and best practice in medicine, in picking up all HIV infections.

It is timely to make this change and it would be considered a positive step in not only increasing the pool of eligible blood donors but in decreasing stigma and improving rights for gay men and other men who have sex with men.

Working as a Registered Nurse in sexual health, I am knowledgeable in HIV window periods, HIV detection and HIV prevention. Changing the policy to a three-month based deferral would better line up with current practice in detecting HIV, while keeping the blood pool safe and helping to fight stigma against men who have sex with men and HIV in general. I believe that this proposed policy change aligns with the government's evidence-based approach and its prioritization of research and science.

I specifically see this change as having a positive impact on younger generation's reaction to issues of social justice, therefore potentially further increasing the blood supply from that cohort. It's time to make changes that reflect what the science shows and that are respectful and inclusive of all people.

Sincerely,
Julia Evans
Registered Nurse (c)