

### **Blood Donation Guidelines**

According to a number of international medical literature, men who have sex with another men and people who practised anal sex have relatively higher prevalence of HIV. For instance, the technical update published by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS in May 2000 reported that sex between men frequently involves anal intercourse, which carries a very high risk of HIV transmission for the receptive partner, and a significant risk, though a lesser one, for the insertive partner.

2. There are studies that support that a man having sex with another man is more susceptible to HIV infection. A study on HIV infection and associated risk factors among sexually transmitted disease patients in Greece : 1990 to 1996 (published in medical journal “Sexually Transmitted Diseases” Vol 27(5), 2000) found that male homosexuals and bisexuals exhibited the highest overall rate of HIV infection. Sexually transmitted disease patients infected with HIV mostly belonged to the risk category of men who have sex with men. Another study carried out in the United States (published in medical journal “JAMA” Vol 284(2), 2000) found that there was a high prevalence of HIV infection among young men who had sex with another men.

3. Based on medical opinions, international communities on blood transfusion services consider it necessary to continue to defer male who have sex with another male from donating blood. The necessity to adopt such deferral

criteria has been re-confirmed at the meetings of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Seven International Colloquium on the Recruitment of Voluntary, Non-remunerated Blood Donors held in June 1999 in Switzerland and the Expert Panel of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held in July 2000 in Austria.

4. In line with the established international practice, the Hong Kong Red Cross Blood Transfusion Services will defer those who had sexual activities with sex workers from blood donation for a period of 12 months.

Health and Welfare Bureau

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