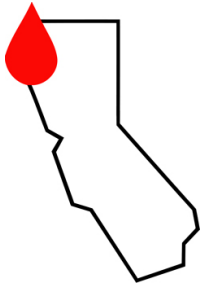


The Northern California Community Blood Bank believes that everyone in our community should have the opportunity to be part of meeting the needs of the patients we serve.



The only thing we can offer to volunteer blood donors is a “good feeling” of pride and satisfaction knowing that they feeling can be very different. When unable to donate many individuals feel excluded or rejected, and while this is never our intention we must recognize and attempt to minimize that feeling.

We recognize that in the United States only 37% of the population is eligible to donate whole blood, platelets or plasma and that every month in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties as many as 150 people are not able to donate due to eligibility criteria. NCCBB encourages our staff to recognize and value the feelings of community members who are not able to donate, whatever the reason.

There are a number of ways for individuals to help the Blood Bank serve our mission. They include:

- Volunteering in our canteen or at blood drive locations
- One-on-one and group recruitment of new donors
- Sponsoring and organizing business and community blood drives
- Financial contributions
- Help us educate the community about the need for blood donation
- Work with us to address deferral issues that should be changed

Male Donors, since 1977 have you: had sex with another male, even once?

This question, along with all of the questions on the Blood Donation Record questionnaire, were developed and mandated by the Food and Drug Administration and it's Blood Products Advisory Committee. As a licensed blood collection facility, the Northern California Community Blood Bank is bound by these rules and has no leeway in modifying or administering these questions.

What Can We Do?

In September 2000, March 2006, June 2008 and again in June 2010 two groups representing community blood banks, America's Blood Centers and the AABB, along with the American Red Cross, recommended to the Blood Products Advisory Committee that the lifetime deferral for males who have had sex with males (MSM) be modified to a time limited deferral. ABC, AABB and the ARC argued that as better testing has become available, the screening of MSM Donors has become redundant. These organizations, on our behalf, will continue to lobby the F.D.A. and the Blood Products Advisory Committee to revise this outdated policy.

What Can You Do?

Make your opinion known to the people who make these decisions! If you are deferred from donating, if you know someone who is, or you're just bothered that this rule exists, write to the Commissioner of the F.D.A., the Directors of the offices involved and the Blood Products Advisory Board.

F.D.A. Staff	Blood Products Advisory Committee
<p>Jay Epstein, M.D., Director Office of Blood Research and Review WOC1 Bldg Rm 411N 1401 Rockville Pike Rockville MD 20852 Tel: 301-827-3518 Fax: 301-827-3533 jay.epstein@fda.hhs.gov</p> <p>Karen Midthun, M.D, Director Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) RKW2 Bldg Suite 7100 5515 Security Lane Rockville, MD 20852 ocod@fda.hhs.gov</p> <p>Division of Communication and Consumer Affairs Office of Communication, Outreach and Development Food and Drug Administration 1401 Rockville Pike Suite 200N/HFM-47 Rockville, MD 20852-1448 (800) 835-4709 (301) 827-1800 ocod@fda.hhs.gov</p>	<p>Chair Jay Brooks Jackson, M.D. <i>Expertise: Pathology/Infectious Disease</i> <i>Term: 03/19/2012-09/30/15</i> Professor and Director (Chairman) of Pathology Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions Carnegie 415 600 North Wolfe Street Baltimore, MD 21287</p> <p>Designated Federal Official Bryan Emery, LCDR Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research 1401 Rockville Pike (HFM-71) Food and Drug Administration Rockville, MD 20852-1448 TEL: (301) 827-1277 FAX: (301) 827-0294 E-mail: Bryan.Emery@fda.hhs.gov</p>