

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY MSS261R

Title: Impacts of change from permanent to time-limited deferral of men who have sex with men (MSM) from blood donation in Hong Kong

Aim and Objectives: The study aimed to investigate the impacts of changing from permanent to time-limited deferral of MSM from blood donation on the risk of HIV transmission in Hong Kong, with the objectives of (a) examining the prevalence of risk behaviours associated with HIV and related conditions in donors; (b) determining the non-compliance rate of male donors towards MSM deferral before and after the introduction of time-limited deferral; and (c) assessing the potential impacts of enforcing the new time-limited deferral on the HIV transmission risk.

Project design: Three rounds of anonymous questionnaire survey were conducted on blood donors in Hong Kong before and after policy change from permanent to 12-month deferral of MSM. Donors at any one of the regular blood donor centres were recruited to complete a self-administered online questionnaire shortly after blood donation, using tablet computers. Questionnaire items covered sexual history, risk behaviours and attitudes towards MSM deferral policy. Number of donors recruited at each centre was proportional to the actual donor distribution. The study objectives and methods were explained to donors by research staff prior to the start of survey, specifying that the study was conducted by the university in anonymity, and which would not affect individual's blood donation procedure

Target population: Blood donors in Hong Kong

Main achievements: Between 2017 and 2019, a total of 3118 donors were recruited during 3 time periods – before policy change (Round A), shortly after policy change without revision of Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ) (Round B), and after change of wordings in the HSQ (Round C), respectively. Overall, male-to-male sex was reported by a small number of respondents, accounting for <1% of male donors, compared to >2% in 2012. Exclusively in round C, male-to-male sex over 12 months ago was reported by 2 male donors. About 60% of respondents from Round B and C were unaware of the policy change. Over 80% were either neutral or positive about the change.

Conclusions: The results suggested a low non-compliance rate of donors giving blood in violation of the contemporary MSM donor deferral policy in Hong Kong. The findings would be useful for evaluating the transfusion risk, planning future deferral policy, and for maintaining a safe donors' pool in Hong Kong. The low awareness of donors suggested the need for further promoting understanding of potential donors as regards deferral policy.

執行摘要 MSS261R

題目：香港的限制男男性接觸者（MSM）捐血政策由永久改為時限延期所引致的影響

宗旨和目標：旨在探討限制 MSM 捐血政策由永久改為時限延期對香港愛滋病毒傳播風險的影響。目標是（a）調查捐血者風險行為的流程度，包括愛滋病和相關情況；（b）確定男捐血者在實施 MSM 時限延期捐血前和後的遵守率；（c）評估新時限延期捐血措施對愛滋病毒傳播風險的潛在影響。

項目設計：香港的限制 MSM 捐血政策從永久改為 12 個月延期，在新政策實施前後從捐血中心招募捐血者進行了三輪匿名問卷調查。剛捐血的參加者應邀使用平板電腦自行填答一份在線問卷；內容包括性史，高風險行為和對限制 MSM 捐血政策的態度。每個中心招募的人數與實際捐血者數目成正比。研究人員在調查前向參加者解釋研究目的和方法，指出調查是由大學以匿名方式進行，不影響個人的捐血程序。

目標人群：香港的捐血者

主要成就：2017 年至 2019 年間，在 3 個時間段內共招募了 3118 名捐血者，分別在政策變更前（甲輪），政策變更後而未修改健康檢查表格（乙輪）和使用經修改新表格後（丙輪）。總體 MSM 佔男性捐血者的比例不到 1%，相比於 2012 年的 2%。丙輪受訪者中有兩位男捐血者在超過 12 個月前有同性性行為，乙和丙輪中約 60%受訪者不知道捐血限制政策有改變。受訪者中，超過 80%對政策改變持中立或支持態度。

結論：香港的捐血者對限制 MSM 捐血政策的不遵守率很低。研究數據有助評估輸血風險、計劃未來的時限延期政策、以及維持安全捐血者數目。結果亦顯示有必要提高有意捐血人士對限制政策的認識。