



Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

JUN 3 2009

Dr. Richard Darling
President and Chief Executive Officer
FAIR Foundation
78629 Bougainvillea Drive
Palm Desert, California 92211

Dear Dr. Darling:

Thank you for your letter regarding the answers provided on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the donation of blood, organs, or semen by an individual who has hepatitis C. Please excuse the delay of this response.

The issues you raised are very important and I appreciate your efforts to examine the information we provide for accuracy, completeness, and recommendations. We always welcome the input of interested individuals and organizations concerning our website, viral hepatitis issues, and other public health matters. It is through such dialog that we are able to refine and clarify our messages so that they offer the best possible information and advice.

The answer to the FAQs you referenced in your letter is a restatement of CDC's most recently published primary prevention recommendations in regard to blood, plasma derivatives, organs, tissues, and semen. As such, it is not subject to modification at this time. We do recognize that those recommendations are now ten years old. A thorough review and revision is needed to incorporate changes in epidemiology, disease burden, testing, treatment, and other factors. We have recently begun the review and revision process and anticipate completion with new recommendations to be issued next year. The FAQs and other information on our website will be updated in accordance with those new recommendations.

Thank you again for your interest in this important issue. We look forward to working with the FAIR Foundation and others in the fight against viral hepatitis.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Besser, M.D.
Acting Director, CDC, and
Acting Administrator, Agency for Toxic
Substances and Disease Registry