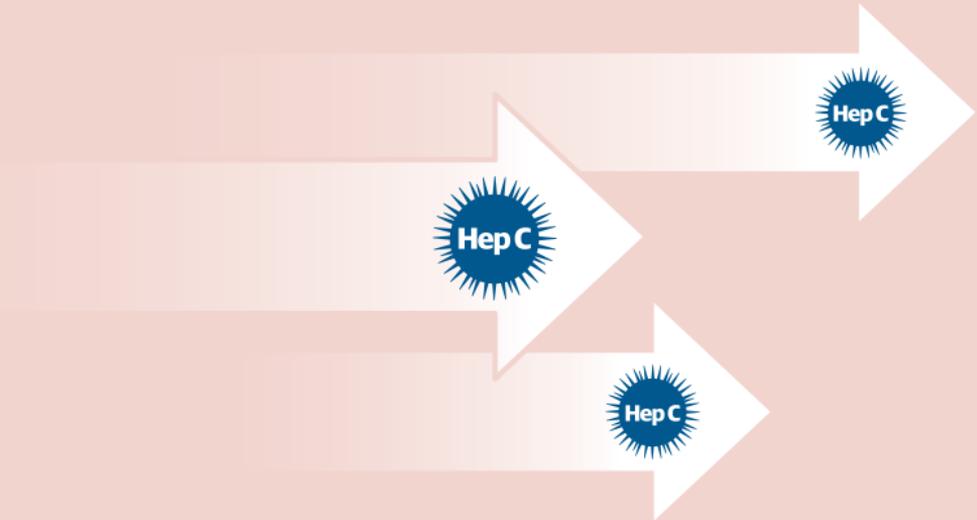


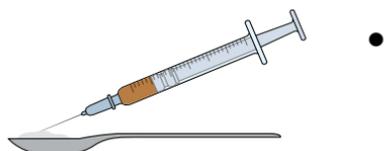
The basics

How hepatitis C is passed on



Hepatitis C is a serious liver infection. It is passed from person to person in the following ways.

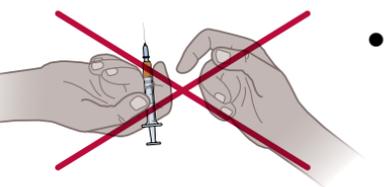
Sharing equipment for injecting drugs



- This includes syringes, needles, water, spoons and mixing containers, filters and swabs.

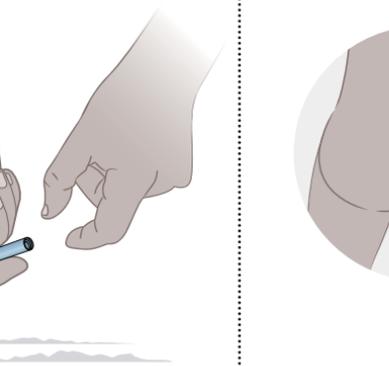


- There's a risk when injecting crystal meth, anabolic steroids, heroin, crack cocaine or any other drug.



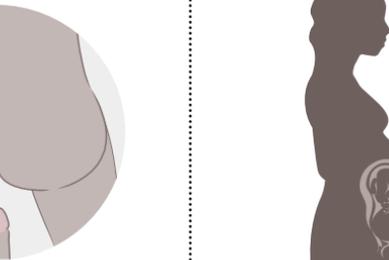
- Always use your own equipment. Don't share, lend or borrow equipment.

Sharing straws or banknotes to snort drugs



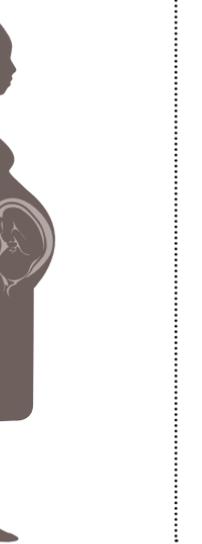
- It's safer for each person to use a different straw or roll of paper.

During sex

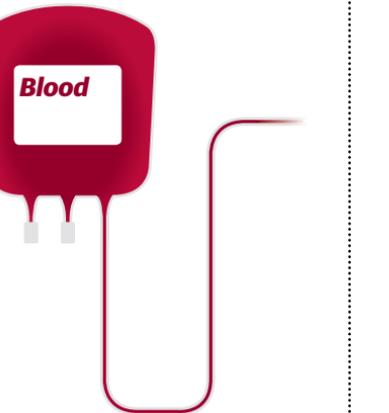


- This mostly affects gay men. There's more information in another leaflet in this series.

From mother to child during pregnancy or childbirth.



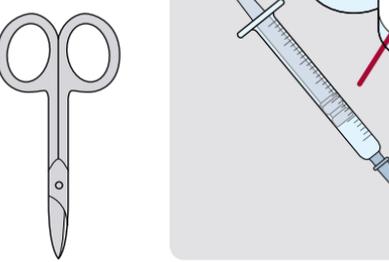
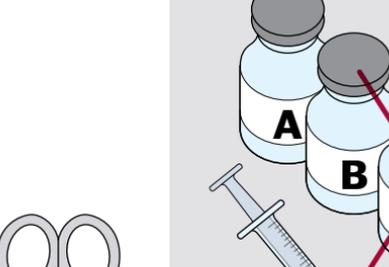
From medical procedures and **blood transfusions** carried out in some poorer countries or in the UK more than 20 years ago.



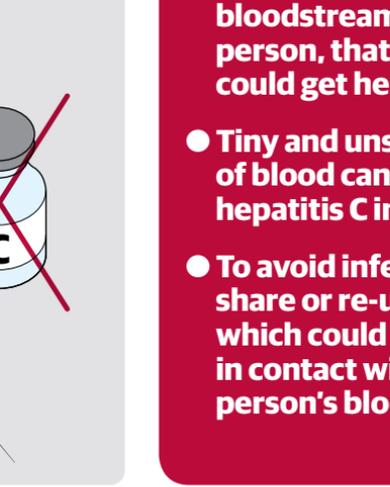
Tattooing or piercing, if equipment is not sterilised properly.



Sharing razors, toothbrushes, nail scissors and other items that could cause bleeding.



Unlike hepatitis A and hepatitis B, there is **no vaccine** against hepatitis C.



Important points

- **When the blood of a person who has hepatitis C enters the bloodstream of another person, that person could get hepatitis C.**
- **Tiny and unseen traces of blood can lead to hepatitis C infection.**
- **To avoid infection, don't share or re-use objects which could have been in contact with another person's blood.**

Notes

The hepatitis C virus can live outside the body for longer than HIV and is more likely to be passed on.

Want to find out more?

- For more information on this topic:**
- read our 'Hepatitis C', 'Hepatitis C treatment' and 'How hepatitis C is passed on during sex' leaflets;
 - visit the Hepatitis C Trust website at www.hepctrust.org.uk;
 - visit the Co-Infection Alliance website at www.co-infectionalliance.org;
 - phone the Hepatitis C Trust Helpline on 0845 223 4424; or
 - speak to an adviser at THT Direct (phone: 0808 802 1221).

For more information about HIV
You can get free fact sheets, booklets, email bulletins and a newsletter from our website at www.aidsmap.com/resources. You can get answers to common questions at www.aidsmap.com/hiv-basics and find local services at www.aidsmap.com/e-atlas.

Contact us by calling 020 3242 0820 or by sending an email to info@nam.org.uk

Has this resource been useful to you?
Please let us know what you think by visiting our website at www.aidsmap.com/feedback, phoning us or sending an email to info@nam.org.uk. Your feedback helps us to improve the services we offer you.

You can contact us to find out more about the scientific research and information we have used to produce this leaflet.

We recommend that you discuss the information in this leaflet with a doctor or other health worker.

NAM
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Charity number: 1011220

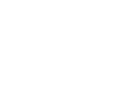
THE HEPATITIS C TRUST

CO-INFECTION ALLIANCE
SUPPORT FOR THE CO-INFECTED COMMUNITY

You can view a large-format version of this leaflet on your computer. Call us on 020 3242 0820.



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