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

If you need extra copies of this leaflet, or would like to translate, adapt or reproduce it, please get in touch.

For more information on this topic

- Read our 'Hepatitis C' leaflet.
- Read our 'Hepatitis C treatment' leaflet.
- Read our 'How hepatitis C is passed on during sex' leaflet.

Other titles in The basics series

- Taking drugs on time
- Health checks
- How treatment works

For information in other languages

www.aidsmap.com/languages

For more information about HIV

- Visit our website www.aidsmap.com
- Speak to an adviser at THT Direct **0808 802 1221**

Please support us

If you would like to support our work and help us to continue to provide resources like this one, please donate today at www.aidsmap.com/donate

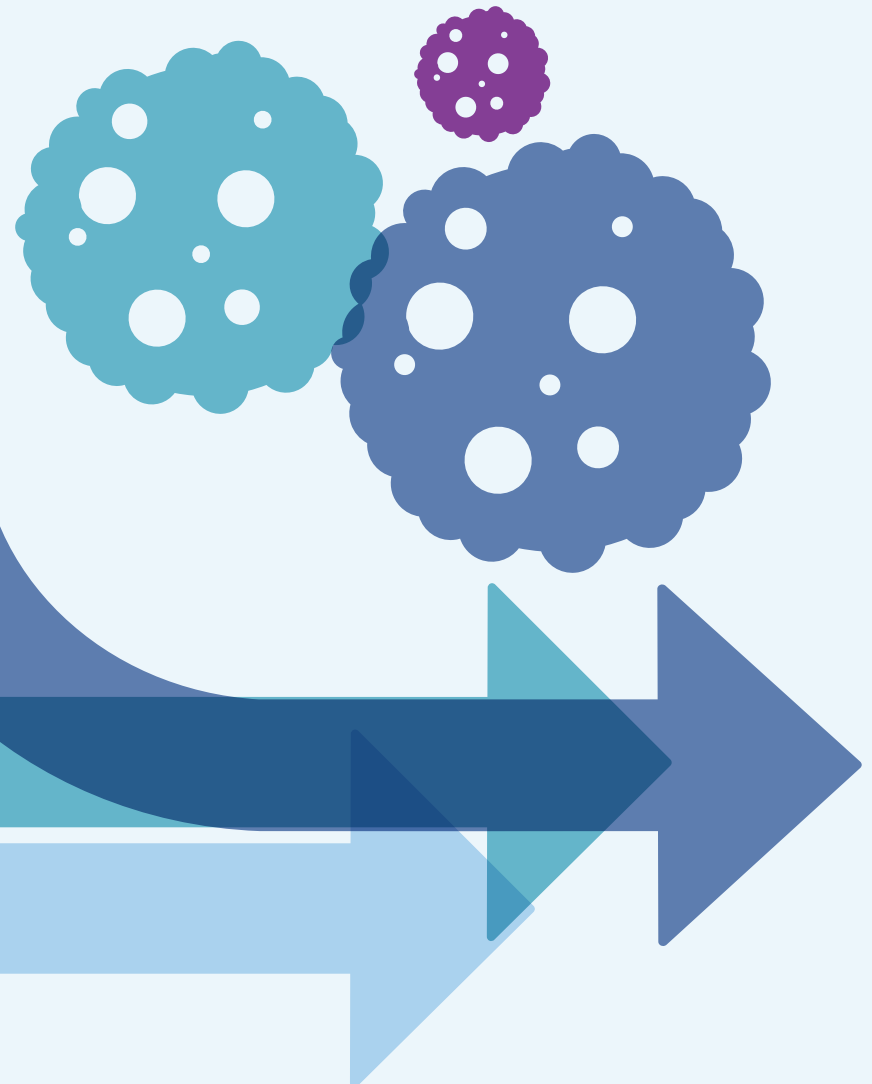
Thanks to all of the professionals and people with HIV who have helped us to develop this leaflet.

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

The basics

How hepatitis C is passed on

Print out double sided and fold along dotted line



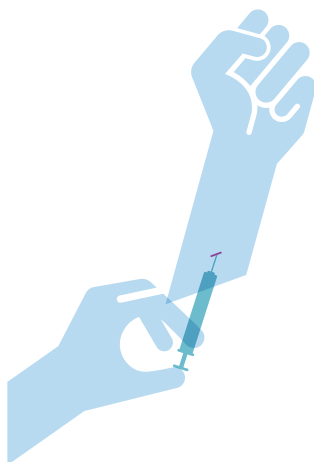
Hepatitis C is a serious liver infection.

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.

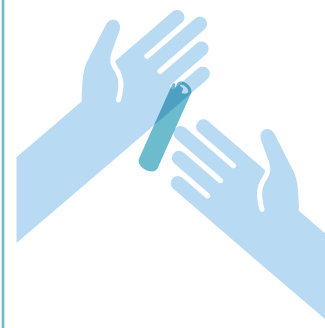


There's a risk when injecting crystal meth, anabolic steroids, heroin, crack cocaine or any other drug.



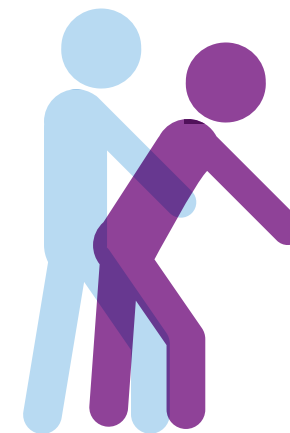
Always use your own equipment. Don't share, lend or borrow equipment.

Sharing straws or banknotes to snort drugs



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

During sex

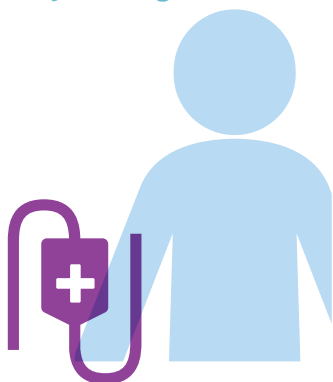


This mostly affects gay men. There's more information in another leaflet in this series.

From mother to child during pregnancy or childbirth.



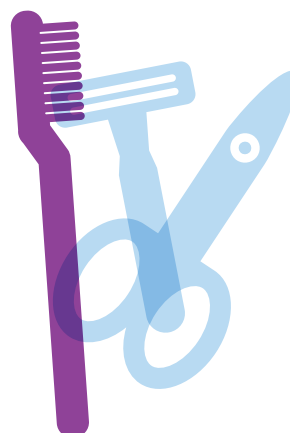
From medical procedures and **blood transfusions** carried out in some poorer countries or in the UK more than 20 years ago.



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.