



NEEDLE EXCHANGE

Why?

HCSP FOR LIVING POSITIVELY **BEING WELL.** HEPATITIS C SUPPORT PROJECT
www.hcvadvocate.org



BECAUSE IT'S

my body.

If I share needles, I'm letting another person's blood get **DIRECTLY** into my body. This is one of the easiest ways to seriously **increase my risk** of getting hepatitis C, HIV, and other diseases.

These viruses are transmitted by direct **BLOOD TO BLOOD CONTACT.** The only way to make sure this doesn't happen is to use only **CLEAN, NEW SYRINGES.**

NEEDLE EXCHANGE

WORKS.

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The information in this brochure is designed to help you understand and manage HCV and is not intended as medical advice. All persons with HCV should consult a medical practitioner for diagnosis and treatment of HCV.

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HEPATITIS C SUPPORT PROJECT



my high.

Because of the way **HEPATITIS C** is transmitted (direct blood to blood contact), some groups of people that shoot drugs have **VERY HIGH** infection rates—sometimes as high as 90 percent.

I DON'T WANT THE STRESS of thinking my high may make me or someone else **REALLY SICK.**

NEEDLE EXCHANGE WORKS

my gear.

Even the tiniest amounts of blood that **CAN'T BE SEEN** can transmit hepatitis C.

Boiling, rinsing, cleaning with alcohol or other substances, **DOESN'T GUARANTEE** that any hepatitis C virus in my syringe will be eliminated.

Even though cleaning with bleach helps to get rid of the virus, **NEW WORKS AND NOT SHARING** are the best ways known to prevent transmitting HCV and other diseases.

MY GEAR HAS TO BE NEW AND CLEAN and the only way to make sure that happens is to use only new works.



NEEDLE EXCHANGE WORKS

my right to stay healthy.

The only way to **KNOW FOR SURE** that I'm not exposing myself or anyone else to hepatitis C and other diseases is to **EXCHANGE** my used works for new ones.

It's my right to say **NO** to sharing.

IT'S EASY, FREE, AND SAFE to get new gear from a needle exchange site. A site **NEAR YOU** can be found by visiting

www.harmreduction.org,
www.nasen.org

or contacting your local city or state health department.

NEEDLE EXCHANGE WORKS



N E E D L E E X C H A N G E

MY CHOICE.

SHARING NEEDLES

or any other equipment used when doing drugs is one of the easiest ways to get or spread hepatitis C (HCV).

HCV is a disease of the liver which is spread by direct blood to blood contact. Symptoms of HCV may not appear for many years, so unless you get tested, you may not know you have it. Any equipment you use to take drugs, including needles, cottons, cookers, ties, pipes, and straws, can put you and others at risk. Even sharing water may transmit the hepatitis C virus. The amount of blood necessary to transmit HCV is so small that you may not even be able to see it.

If you make the personal choice to never share any drug using equipment, you can help prevent HCV from spreading to you, your family, friends and loved ones.

Needle Exchange programs are anonymous and safe. You can exchange your used works for new ones and get other equipment, information or referrals you may need. The workers at these sites aren't interested in changing your lifestyle. They're there to help you stay healthy.

Find your local needle exchange sites by contacting

- your local health department
- North American Needle Exchange Network
(253) 272-4857
www.nasen.org
- The Harm Reduction Coalition
www.harmreduction.org

For more information on prevention and management of hepatitis C visit
www.hcvadvocate.org

