

HEP C IN PRISON

WHAT IS SToP-C?

- SToP-C is a research project which aims to prevent spread of hep C in NSW prisons.
- If a person in custody decides to participate, he can have regular hep C tests in prison.
- If he has hep C infection he will be offered treatment with new medications.
- New hep C treatment:
 - ✓ one tablet taken once every day for 12 weeks (no injections)
 - ✓ has already been tested and shown to be safe (very few side effects)
 - ✓ cures hep C in over 90% of people
- Participants will also have a FibroScan – this is a quick, painless, non-invasive liver scan to check for scarring or liver damage.

CURRENT STATUS

People in custody at <ENTER NAME> Correctional Centre can take part in SToP-C. In the current phase, participants are tested for hep C every 6 months and receive \$10 each time.

All participants with hep C will be offered treatment with the new medications. Treatment with the new SToP-C medication will be available from <ENTER DATE>.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT
THE SToP-C STUDY,
PEOPLE IN CUSTODY SHOULD ASK TO
SEE THE SToP-C NURSE**

For free & confidential hep C info contact:
NSW Prisons Hepatitis Infoline (inside prison)
Hepatitis Infoline 1800 803 990 (outside prison)

www.hep.org.au

HEPATITIS C TESTING AND TREATMENT IN PRISON

<ENTER NAME>

CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

<ENTER DATE>

WHAT IS HEP C?

HOW DO YOU GET HEP C?

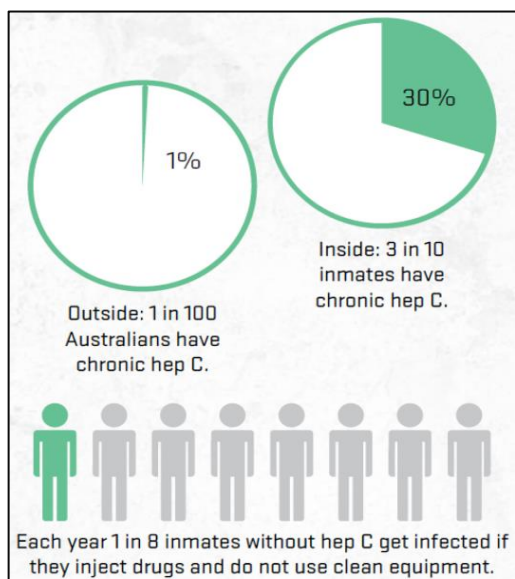
HOW DO YOU GET TESTED?



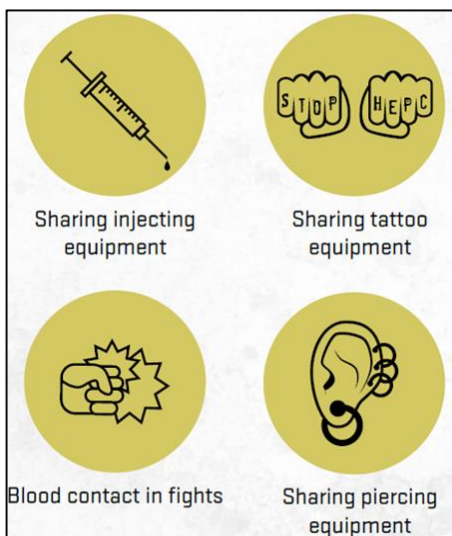
Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. Hep C is a viral infection which causes hepatitis (others include hep A and B).

Some people who have hep C may clear the virus from their blood without treatment. However, if the virus remains and is left untreated (called “chronic hep C”) the infection causes scarring and eventually may cause serious liver damage called cirrhosis.

LOTS OF PEOPLE IN PRISON HAVE HEP C



The hep C virus is present in the blood of a person with chronic hep C. If this comes into contact with another person’s blood that person can become infected. The most common way people get hep C in Australia are:



Hep C **CANNOT** be transmitted to another person by everyday contact including coughing, sneezing, hugging, kissing, sharing utensils and cups, or sharing food and water.

THERE IS NO HEP C VACCINE

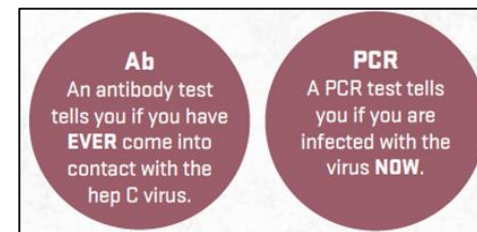
It is therefore important to:

- get tested to check if you have hep C
- if you have hep C, get treated for it
- if you have hep C, avoid activities that can spread hep C to other people

PEOPLE WITH HEP C OFTEN DON'T FEEL SICK

Many people who have hep C do not feel sick and do not know that they are infected. The most common symptom is tiredness or fatigue. If you may have been exposed it is important to get tested to check if you have hep C and know where you stand. Your doctor can test you for hep C by taking a blood sample.

There are two types of test:



Chronic infection = positive Ab and positive PCR test
 Previous infection = positive Ab but negative PCR test
 Never infected = negative Ab and negative PCR test

WHAT ABOUT TREATMENT?

HEP C CAN BE CURED

New medications do not involve interferon (injections) like older treatments. New treatment courses are also much shorter than interferon-based therapy, have higher cure rates and fewer side effects. People in custody at <ENTER CENTRE NAME> can access new medications by participating in SToP-C.