



Hepatitis B,  
Hepatitis C  
and HIV

**Get tested whilst in prison.**

# Hepatitis C is...



a virus found in the blood and is spread through blood to blood contact, for example through sharing unsterile needles. This may happen through unsterile medical or tattooing procedures.

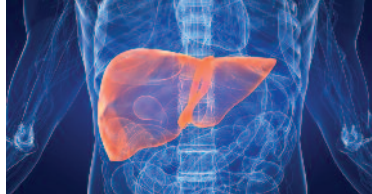
Sharing needles and other drug taking paraphernalia such as spoons or foils may also risk transmission blood borne viruses.

**People living with hepatitis C may not have symptoms however left untreated the virus may cause serious liver damage including cancer.**



**Get tested whilst in prison!**

## Hepatitis B is...



a virus found in the blood and bodily fluids. It is transmitted in the same way as hepatitis C but may also be passed on through unprotected sex or from mother to baby during childbirth.

Vaccinations (injections) are available to prevent infection.

**It is strongly recommended that you have these whilst in prison – just ask the prison healthcare staff.**



**Get vaccinated for hepatitis B whilst in prison!**

## HIV is...



a virus found in the blood and other bodily fluids such as semen.

HIV affects the immune system. The virus can be passed on through blood to blood contact in the same way as hepatitis but can also be passed on through unprotected sex.

**Treatment is available for HIV and can be given in prison. Using a condom will help protect against HIV.**



**Get tested for HIV whilst in prison!**

# Use prison as an opportunity to get more information... and to get tested!

This leaflet describes 3 blood borne viruses: Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. These are potentially serious diseases which may not have any symptoms therefore people may not realise they are infected.

It is important to understand how these diseases are transmitted so you can avoid being at risk of infection. If you think you may have been at risk then testing and treatment is available for blood borne viruses whilst you are in prison.

# Blood borne virus transmission can be prevented:

- Never share needles or drug taking equipment for any type of drug use.
- Ensure tattooing or body piercing equipment is sterile.
- Always use a condom to prevent sexual transmission.
- Hepatitis B and C and HIV can be treated. Following assessment, treatment can be started whilst in prison. If you think you may have been at risk for hepatitis B or C, would like to be tested (a simple blood test) or would just like more information, speak to the nurses or doctors in the prison healthcare department.
- Don't forget to ask for your hepatitis B vaccinations!



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