

# Preventing HCV in IDU's

## EASY C FACTS

There is a myth that you can get hepatitis C (HCV) from using drugs and/or re-using your own injection drug equipment (works). This is not true—you have to get hepatitis C infected blood into your bloodstream in order to become infected with hepatitis C. It's important to get the right facts so you and others can stay safe.

The number one way that people get infected with hepatitis C (HCV) is from sharing needles and

works—this includes sharing needles, cookers, cottons, ties, water, etc.

To prevent transmission of hepatitis C do not share any needles or works. Sharing needles and works can put you at risk for hepatitis C even if you share them just once. This is why needle exchange is so important to help stop the spread of hepatitis C and other infections.

If you do not have a needle exchange another way to stay safe is to only use and re-use your own needles and works.

## *Remember.....*

- ◆ Hepatitis C is only transmitted from getting HCV-infected blood from someone who has hepatitis C, and **ONLY** if that HCV-infected blood gets into your body.
- ◆ To prevent transmission of HCV do not share any needles and works.
- ◆ Another way to stay safe is to only use and re-use your own needles and works.

[www.hcvadvocate.org](http://www.hcvadvocate.org)

