

# Piercings and HCV

## EASY C FACTS

There is a real chance that a person could get hepatitis C (HCV or Hep C for short) while having a piercing if safety practices are not followed very carefully.

The chance of getting hepatitis C from a piercing is considered a low risk, but if you had a piercing in any setting where safety precautions were not followed carefully – for instance, from a friend or on the street – it might be a good

idea to get tested for hepatitis C.

If you decide to get a body piercing be sure to go to a commercial piercing studio that pays close attention to safety. You may want to ask them if you can watch while they set up a piercing or they may even let you watch while they are working on someone else. This way you can see that they are closely following safety procedures.

***We recommend that people get a piercing in a commercial piercing studio that practices the following safety measures:***

- ◆ Sterilize any equipment that may come into contact with blood
- ◆ Only use new needles. All needles should be individually wrapped and the packages should be opened in front of you
- ◆ The shop is clean and all surfaces are disinfected
- ◆ Use only new safety gloves
- ◆ Dispose of all equipment that may have come into contact with blood; use a “sharps” bin or a puncture-proof container
- ◆ Never get a piercing with a piercing gun
- ◆ Visit [www.safepiercing.org](http://www.safepiercing.org) for more information to keep you safe

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