

Tattoos and HCV

EASY C FACTS

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

The risk is much higher if you get a tattoo in prison, on the streets or from a friend because there is usually less attention to safety.

If you have received a tattoo from a person or in a place that

does not follow proper safety measures, it might be a good idea to get tested for HCV since there is a greater risk of catching it in these unsafe settings.

If you decide to get a tattoo, ask the tattoo artist about safety procedures. You might even want to ask if you can watch while they work on someone else so that you can see that they are using safer tattooing practices.

Safety Tips

We recommend that people get a tattoo in a commercial tattoo parlor that practices the following safety measures:

- ◆ Use only new needles and separate ink pots for each person.
- ◆ Sterilize any equipment that may come into contact with blood.
- ◆ Use clean safety gloves.
- ◆ Clean and disinfect all surfaces.
- ◆ Cover fresh tattoos with a dressing to prevent infection or HCV transmission.
- ◆ Properly dispose of all equipment that may have come into contact with blood; use a “sharps” bin or a puncture-proof container.
- ◆ Contact www.safe-tattoos.com for more information to keep you safe.

www.hevadvocate.org