

Get Tested. Get Treated. Get Cured.

HCV & Harm Reduction

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VEIN & ARTERY CARE

Veins and arteries carry blood throughout the body. Veins carry blood to the heart and arteries carry blood away from the heart. Blood is dark red in the veins and bright red in the arteries. This is one of the best ways to know if you are in an artery or a vein. Knowing which one you are in is important. Injecting into an artery where blood is moving away from the heart will result in less of a high and increase risk seeking behavior for other drugs. Arteries also have a lot of pressure and can cause the syringe to “pop” out of the arm or injection site due to pressure. You can find out if you are in a vein or an artery by pulling back slightly on the plunger of the syringe immediately after placing the needle at the injection site and BEFORE you inject the drug into your arm. If you are in an artery IMMEDIATELY pull out of your arm and find a vein. Be sure to clean the injection site before trying to find another spot.

Remember:

- Veins carry blood to the heart and arteries carry blood away from the heart.
- Veins have dark red blood and arteries have bright red blood.
- Arteries have higher pressure than veins and can cause a syringe to be “pushed” out of the injection site due to pressure.
- By pulling slightly back on the syringe once in the arm you can see the color of the blood and determine if you are in a vein or artery.
- If you are in an artery IMMEDIATELY pull the syringe out, clean the injection site and find a vein.

learn more by visiting www.hcvadvocate.org

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