



- 1 Keep raising the issue.
- 2 By protecting themselves against hepatitis B, injectors are also protecting others.
- 3 Be free of hepatitis B.

B3: Hepatitis B

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The hepatitis B vaccination intervention pad has been produced by Exchange Supplies for DrugScope as part of the Department of Health 'Making Harm Reduction Work' initiative. Written by: Jon Derricott, Andrew Preston, and Neil Hunt.

B3: Hepatitis B



Be Free

Protection against hepatitis B

Contains 50 tear-off cards with information for drug users

Hepatitis B prevention is simple – 3 free jabs give immunity.

Hepatitis B is a virus that:

- Can cause very serious liver disease and even death; and
- Is common amongst injecting drug users.

Hepatitis B can be passed on easily by:

- Sharing needles, syringes, spoons, filters and water
- Unprotected sex
- Getting accidentally pricked by an infected needle
- A pregnant woman to her unborn child
- Sharing toothbrushes and razors.

The vaccination is given free by many drug treatment services, needle exchanges and GPs.

The vaccination only gives protection against hepatitis B – it is still possible to get hepatitis C and HIV by taking part in risky behaviour. There are no vaccines for hepatitis C and HIV.

Hepatitis B vaccination is important for all injecting drug users, including people who only inject every now and then. People who live with injecting drug users and sexual partners of people who are, or have been, injecting drug users should also be vaccinated.

Find out where people can get vaccinated free and tell everyone you know who is in one of these groups.

Keep on at anyone who has not had the vaccine at all, or who has started but not had all three injections, to get themselves vaccinated.

It is simple and could save their life.

**Get yourself vaccinated
against hepatitis B**

**If you miss an injection
appointment, whether it
is the first, second or third
– just arrange another one**

**Encourage other drug
users and their partners
to have hepatitis B
vaccinations**

Be Free

Date of first injection



Date 2nd injection due



Date 3rd injection due



Date of blood test



Date booster due



Be Free

3 free jabs give you
protection against
hepatitis B

Hepatitis B causes serious liver disease and it can be prevented.

It is easily passed on, by sharing injecting equipment, having unprotected sex and by sharing toothbrushes and razors.

If you inject drugs, or have unprotected sex with an injector, the risk of catching a virus carried in the blood such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV is greatly increased.

The level of risk is different for each virus, but **you can completely remove the risk of hepatitis B** by being vaccinated against it.

After you are vaccinated for hepatitis B, you can still catch hepatitis C and HIV. You can reduce the risks of getting or passing on these viruses by:

- Not injecting
- Not sharing any injecting equipment, including water, spoons and filters
- Not sharing toothbrushes or razors; and
- Only having protected sex.