




Preferred Terminology for the Media

The information in this factsheet has been provided by Hepatitis Australia to assist media in providing balanced reporting on hepatitis C and related issues which is respectful to people affected by hepatitis C.

Unfavoured terminology	Preferred terminology
 <p>Hep C victim, hep C sufferer</p> <p>This implies a person with hepatitis C is powerless, and has little control over their condition.</p>	 <p>Person/people with hepatitis C</p>
 <p>Junkie/Druggie</p> <p>These terms are stigmatising, as they imply a stereotypical image of someone who injects drugs. Use of these terms further marginalises people who are often disadvantaged socially, and prevents them from accessing health services, or from being actively involved in their own and others' health promotion.</p>	 <p>People who inject drugs</p>
 <p>Innocent victims</p> <p>This term is sometimes used to describe people with medically acquired hepatitis C infection, or children who have acquired hepatitis C transmitted from their hepatitis C positive mother during pregnancy or at birth. It incorrectly implies that people infected in other ways are 'guilty'.</p>	 <p>Person/people with hepatitis C, people with medically acquired hepatitis C, children with hepatitis C</p>
 <p>Carrier</p> <p>This term is stigmatising and offensive to many people living with hepatitis C, as it portrays the subject as a public health threat, rather than as a person affected by chronic illness.</p>	 <p>Person/people with hepatitis C</p>
 <p>High risk group</p> <p>This implies that membership of a particular group (injecting drug users), rather than unsafe behaviour (the sharing of unsterile injecting equipment), is the significant factor in hepatitis C transmission.</p>	 <p>High risk behaviours</p> <p>The virus is transmitted when infected blood from one person gets into the bloodstream of someone else; mainly through sharing any equipment used to inject drugs, unsterile tattooing and unsterile body piercing.</p>