

HEPATITIS C and CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

HOW IS HEPATITIS C TRANSMITTED IN A CORRECTIONAL CENTRE?

- Hepatitis C is transmitted by **blood to blood** contact
- Correctional Officers can contract hepatitis C through:
 - assaults, blood spills and accidental needle stick injuries
- People in a Correctional Centre can contract hepatitis C through:
 - sharing needles and tattoo guns
 - sharing razors, toothbrushes and equipment used for hair cuts

ELIMINATE HEPATITIS C AND MAKE YOUR WORKPLACE SAFER

- Treatment = cure
- 95% of people who complete 8-12 weeks of treatment will be cured
- Most people will not experience any side effects - those who do may have mild headaches
- Access to treatment is available to everyone, including people in Correctional Centres

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Always follow procedures to reduce risk of possible exposure
- Control the risk – limit exposure to sharps and provide adequate training for staff on blood-borne viruses and access to PPE
- Follow procedures for testing and risk assessment in case of exposure
- Provide good quality information and support as an exposure event can be very stressful

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE EXPOSED TO POTENTIALLY INFECTED BLOOD

- ✓ Wash the exposed skin with soap and water
- ✓ Seek medical advice immediately
- ✓ Conduct a blood-borne virus risk assessment
- ✓ Follow testing guidelines to determine if an infection has occurred
- ✓ Respect confidentiality of all parties involved as per state and federal legislation

MORE INFORMATION

1. Visit QCS Intranet – Policies and Procedures
2. Contact the Occupational Health, Safety and Environmental Coordinator (OHSEC) in your Centre
3. **Contact Hepatitis Queensland on 1800 HEP ABC (1800 437 222) or visit www.hepqld.asn.au**