



Be Free

3 free jabs give you protection against hepatitis B!

Everyone who:

- Is an injecting drug user
- Lives with an injecting drug user
- Has a sexual partner who is, or has been, an injecting drug user

should be vaccinated against hepatitis B.

Hepatitis B is a virus that:

- Can cause very serious liver disease; and
- Is common amongst people who inject drugs.

Hepatitis B can easily be passed on by:

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

A very small amount of blood can be enough to pass on the virus. The hepatitis B virus can survive for months outside the body – even in dried blood.

Prevention of hepatitis B is simple – 3 free jabs give you protection.

The vaccine only gives protection against hepatitis B: protecting yourself from hepatitis B won't protect you from HIV and hepatitis C. You can catch these by sharing injecting equipment, needle-stick injuries and unsafe sex.

But hepatitis B can be one less thing to worry about.

Three separate doses of the vaccine are usually needed to give full protection. Each dose is given by injection, into the muscle of the upper arm.

A blood test should be taken a few months after the last injection to check that the vaccine has been effective. A small number of people are still not immune after the first course of injections, if this happens, extra doses of vaccine are needed to give immunity.

Immunity usually lasts for five years, after that, a booster dose of vaccine should be given.

Free hepatitis B vaccination may be available from your:

- Drug treatment service
- Needle exchange
- Sexual health clinic
- GP

Ask staff at your local needle exchange or treatment service for details.

Be free of hepatitis B.

Vaccination record card

1

Date of 1st injection

Done

2

Date 2nd injection due

Done

3

Date 3rd injection due

Done

Date of blood test

Done

Date booster due

Done

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