

Vaccination record card

Name

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

3 free jabs protect you against hepatitis B!

The first edition of this leaflet was published in 2008 for the Department of Health, as part of the Harm Reduction Works campaign which was one element of the Reducing Drug Related Deaths Action Plan.

Second edition © Exchange Supplies

Re-order code: HRLEAFLET2

Order online at exchangesupplies.org

EXCHANGE
SUPPLIES



Protect
yourself
against

hep  B

Everyone who:

- is an injecting drug user;
- lives with an injecting drug user; or
- 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; and
- sharing toothbrushes and razors.

A very small amount of blood can be enough to pass on the virus.

Prevention of hepatitis B is simple - three free jabs give you protection.

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

A blood test should be taken a few months after the last injection to check that the vaccine has worked.

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 should be given.

Free hepatitis B vaccination may be available from your:

- drug treatment service;
- needle exchange;
- sexual health clinic; and
- doctor.

Ask staff for details.