



## EMCDDA Harm Reduction Initiative – Increasing HCV testing and referral for people who inject drugs in drug services

### Knowledge questionnaire for drug service staff

#### Introduction:

How much do you know about viral hepatitis and the tests and treatment available? This short questionnaire will help us find out which topics people tend to be less sure about so that more information and training in these areas can be provided – and we hope it will be a useful knowledge refresher for you!

The questionnaire is anonymous and is not designed to evaluate people so you can be completely honest without any worries.

<b>A. Hepatitis C</b>	<b>I knew this already</b>	<b>This is new to me</b>
1. The level of hepatitis C infection in the general population in Europe is generally low (below 2%).	( )	( )
2. The level of hepatitis C infection among people who inject drugs in Europe is generally high (often 50% or even higher).	( )	( )
3. Hepatitis C testing and treatment has benefits for both the individuals treated and for others, as the transmission of the virus is reduced.	( )	( )
4. Hepatitis C virus (HCV) is mainly transmitted through blood, and occasionally including during sex.	( )	( )

	I knew this already	This is new to me
5. HCV is much more infectious via blood than HIV.	( )	( )
6. HCV can survive outside the body for hours or even days.	( )	( )
7. HCV can be transmitted through sharing used syringes and needles.	( )	( )
8. HCV can be transmitted through sharing unclean filters.	( )	( )
9. HCV can be transmitted through sharing straws or tubes used for snorting drugs.	( )	( )
10. HCV <u>cannot</u> be transmitted via food, drinking water, or by casual contact (holding hands, hugging and kissing).	( )	( )
11. HCV can be transmitted among people who inject drugs by sharing a water container to pull up water for injecting drugs.	( )	( )
12. Among PWID, it is possible to get infected with HCV by sharing spoons for preparing drugs for injection.	( )	( )
13. The first stage of testing for hepatitis C, involves testing for antibodies against HCV (to know if they are anti-HCV positive).	( )	( )
14. Rapid diagnostic tests using blood from a finger prick or oral fluid to detect anti-HCV have been developed. They are easy to use and provide quick results (within 20 min).	( )	( )

	I knew this already	This is new to me
15. Being anti-HCV positive can mean that a person is either currently infected with hepatitis C or was infected in the past and has cleared the virus.	( )	( )
16. To know if a person is currently infected, a further blood test is needed (Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or core Antigen testing).	( )	( )
17. When informed properly, the majority of PWIDs who are offered testing will accept and appreciate knowing their status.	( )	( )
18. Regular testing for HCV for people who continue engaging in risky drug use behaviours is recommended by the World Health Organization.	( )	( )
19. People with an acute HCV infection may experience specific symptoms shortly after infection (e.g. upper abdominal pain, jaundice, nausea), sometimes only have unspecific symptoms (fatigue), but often have no symptoms.	( )	( )
20. An HCV infection becomes chronic in most cases.	( )	( )
21. The majority of people with chronic hepatitis C infection do not have any symptoms for decades.	( )	( )
22. It is not possible to tell from a person's appearance whether they are infected with HCV.	( )	( )
23. If left untreated, chronic hepatitis C can cause serious damage to the liver and possibly lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer.	( )	( )
24. There is no vaccine for hepatitis C.	( )	( )

	<b>I knew this already</b>	<b>This is new to me</b>
25. It is not enough to rinse needles and other drug use equipment with water to protect oneself from HCV transmission.	( )	( )
26. Condoms prevent sexual transmission of HCV.	( )	( )
27. After successful treatment of hepatitis C, it is possible to get re-infected if again exposed to the virus.	( )	( )
28. A test for the presence of the hepatitis C virus should be repeated regularly after completing the treatment.	( )	( )
29. Today, hepatitis C can be cured in almost all cases.	( )	( )
30. Treating hepatitis C prevents long term damage to health.	( )	( )
31. The treatment for hepatitis C consists of pills that usually need to be taken for between 8 and 12 weeks.	( )	( )
32. International guidelines recommend offering treatment to all people who inject drugs diagnosed with HCV infection, irrespective of disease stage.	( )	( )

<b>B. Hepatitis B</b>	<b>I knew this already</b>	<b>This is new to me</b>
1. Hepatitis B virus (HBV) can be transmitted via condomless sex or blood, and also from mother to child.	( )	( )
2. Using condoms can prevent sexual transmission of HBV.	( )	( )
3. Hepatitis B can become chronic, but this is much less common than for hepatitis C.	( )	( )
4. An effective vaccine exists for hepatitis B.	( )	( )
5. To prevent HBV infection ideally three doses of the vaccine should be given.	( )	( )
6. Along with HCV, screening for HBV, HIV and sexually transmitted infections is also recommended for people who inject drugs.	( )	( )

<b>C. Personal Status</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>I DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>NO</b>
1. Do you know your hepatitis B status?	( )		( )
2. Do you know your hepatitis C status?	( )		( )
3. Have you been vaccinated against hepatitis B?	( )	( )	( )

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## D. Further Information

1. How often do you provide services for PWID?

- regularly
- occasionally
- never

2. In what type of facility do you work: (please chose 1 option)

- Low-threshold agency (e.g. community-based harm reduction programme: drop-in, DCR)
- Outpatient drug treatment center
- Inpatient drug treatment center
- Prison
- Other

If 'Other? Please indicate: .....

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**Thank you very much for completing the questionnaire.**

If you are interested in more information about hepatitis C epidemiology, policy or practice, please visit our Hepatitis C Resources page:

<https://europa.eu/!YC89Tn>

It is important for people who are working in drug services to be tested regularly and be vaccinated against hepatitis B – so make sure you **KNOW YOUR STATUS**.

See where you can get tested: <https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/test-finder>

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