















Preferred Terminology for the Media

The information in this factsheet has been provided by the 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 replacement
 <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</p> <p>This term is stigmatising, as it implies a stereotypical image of someone who injects drugs.</p> <p>Use of this term 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>injecting drug user (IDU)</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.</p> <p>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, rather than unsafe behaviour, is the significant factor in hepatitis C transmission. This term may lull people who do not identify with any group into a false sense of security. It is high-risk behaviours, rather than high-risk groups, that can transmit hepatitis C infection.</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, unsterile body piercing)</p> 
 <p>injecting drugs causes hepatitis C</p> <p>Hepatitis C transmission primarily occurs only when people share any equipment used to inject drugs, or when hepatitis C infected blood contaminates hands and surfaces in the environment where injecting takes place, or where there is unsterile tattooing or unsterile body piercing with equipment contaminated with hepatitis C.</p> <p>It is blood to blood contact with a person with hepatitis C that enables transmission, not injecting drugs per se.</p>	 <p>hepatitis C is transmitted when infected blood from one person gets into the bloodstream of someone else</p>
 <p>a person described as "being hepatitis C"</p> <p>Sometimes people with hepatitis C are described as "being hepatitis C". This is confusing, and implies that hepatitis C consumes their whole lives.</p>	 <p>person/people with hepatitis C</p>