

# AT THE CROSSROADS

A stylized, painterly illustration of a park at night. The scene is dominated by trees with large, dark, reddish-brown leaves. In the background, a large, illuminated Christmas tree is visible, decorated with lights. A person is sitting on a wooden bench in the middle ground. The overall color palette is warm, with yellows, oranges, and reds, contrasted with the cool blues and greens of the night sky and the Christmas tree.

A ROUTE TO HEPATITIS C TREATMENT

FEATURING CLIENTS OF WRCH NEEDLE SYRINGE PROGRAM

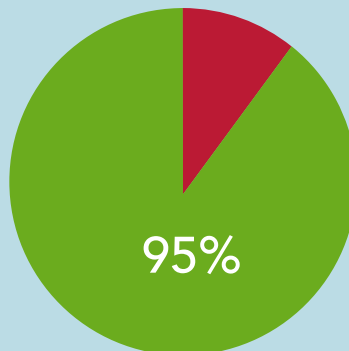
# WHY SHOULD YOU START HEP C TREATMENT?

## TREATMENT



For most people treatment usually lasts for 12 weeks and is made up of a few pills each day.

## CURE



The new treatments give about 95% chance of being cured (even if you have got cirrhosis).

## SIDE EFFECTS



The treatments often don't have any side effects. If they do, they are usually very mild.





HELLO, WHO DIS?

RING-RING-



HEY DAVE, IT'S SAL. CAN I GET YOU TO DROP OFF A TASTE? I'VE GOT THE PAPER.



NO PROBLEM, I'LL GO PICK UP AND HEAD OVER GIMME 20 MIN.



LOOK OUT, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?







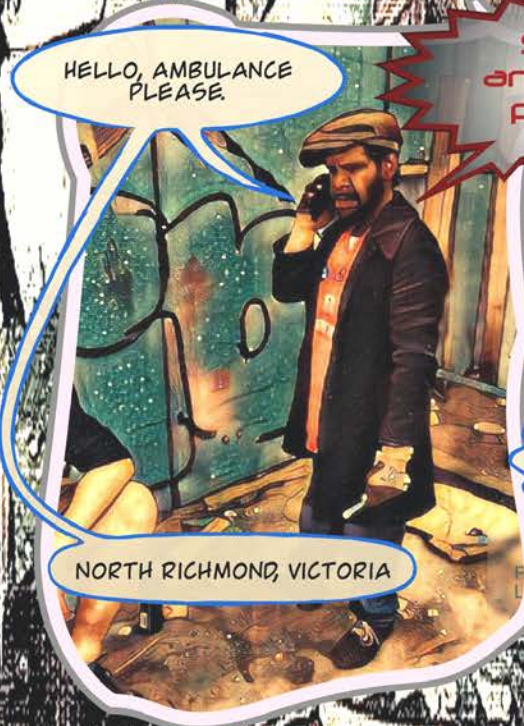
OI??? HEY MATE???  
YOU ALRIGHT?



OMG, IS THAT HIS  
DOPE ON THE GROUND?



SCORE  
!!



HELLO, AMBULANCE  
PLEASE.

NORTH RICHMOND, VICTORIA

State  
and town  
please



MATE, THIS IS YOUR  
LAST CHANCE, WAKE UP  
OR I'M GONNA GIVE YOU  
NALOXONE.

THAT WAS  
QUICK, I CAN HEAR  
THE SIRENS  
ALREADY.





SALLY HAS HAD A LONG NIGHT WAITING FOR HER PENSION TO CLEAR. NOW THE WAIT CONTINUES AS SHE WAITS FOR DAVE.



COME ON HURRY UP!!!



DAVE, WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE ARE YOU?

SORRY SAL, I GOT A BIT HELD UP I'VE PICKED UP JUST LEAVING.



**KNOCK KNOCK**



FINALLY! I'M ABOUT TO SHIT MYSELF

YUCK!!! TOO MUCH INFORMATION



# NALOXONE INFORMATION

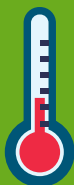
## DOES NALOXONE EXPIRE?



**APPROXIMATELY  
2 YEARS**

Naloxone has a shelf-life of around two years. For a repeat script, ask your doctor or you can purchase over the counter at a pharmacy.

Expired naloxone is not harmful, but it is less effective compared to new Naloxone.



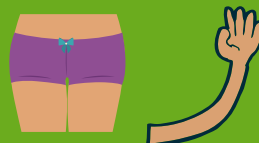
**BELOW  
25 DEGREES**

## WHERE DO YOU STORE NALOXONE?

Naloxone should be stored below 25 degrees.

Try to always carry it with you and make sure anyone with you knows how to use it too.

## HOW DO YOU ADMINISTER NALOXONE?



Naloxone is commonly injected into the muscle of the upper arm or upper thigh with a syringe.

A second dose is sometimes required if there is still no response within 2 to 3 minutes after the first dose.

# NALOXONE INFORMATION

## WHAT IS NALOXONE?



Naloxone is a type of medicine that can temporarily reverse opioid overdose. It lasts between 30 and 90 minutes, allowing the person to breathe again while the ambulance is on its way.

## HOW DO YOU GET NALOXONE?

Naloxone can be prescribed by your doctor, but is also available over-the-counter from a pharmacist.

Getting Naloxone on prescription will be cheaper and it will also give you a chance to speak to a doctor.







YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED. I WAS ON MY WAY TO SCORE--



DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, I'M SICK. SHOOT FIRST, TALK AFTER.

I HEAR YA, HERES THE DOPE, MIX UP



I'VE ONLY GOT 1 FRESHIE LEFT, HAVE YOU GOT YOUR OWN TOOLS?

FUCK SAL, YOU SHOULD OF TOLD ME ON THE PHONE. I COULD HAVE GONE PAST THE NSR



AS YOU CAN SEE, I GOT PLENTY OF DIRTIES YOU COULD CHOOSE FROM, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHOSE ARE WHOSE.

Photo



OK. I'LL WASH OUT A DIRTY ONE. I'VE ALREADY GOT HEP C.





I GAVE A DUDE  
NALOXONE EARLIER  
TODAY.

WAS HE OK?

DON'T KNOW, I  
LEFT JUST AS THE  
AMBULANCE ARRIVED.



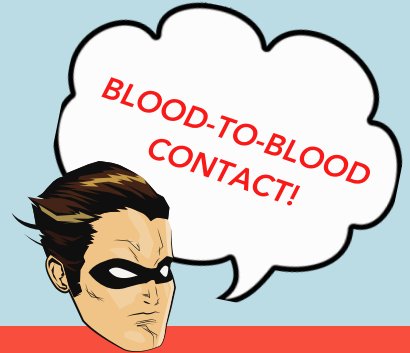
ZZZZZ

MEANWHILE...

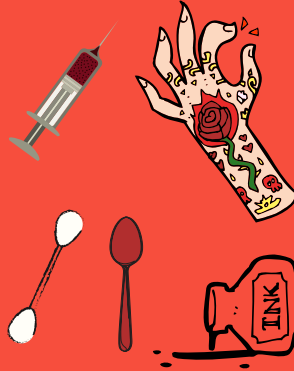




# HOW IS HEP C TRANSFERRED?

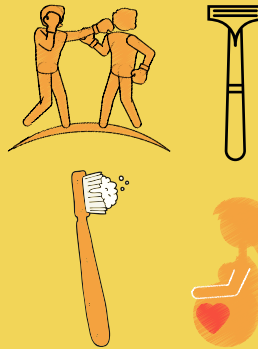


## HIGH RISK



- Sharing tattooing and piercing equipment or ink ('backyard' or prison tattoos)
- Sharing injecting drug equipment (e.g. needles, swabs, tourniquets, filters, spoons and water)

- Sharing razors, toothbrushes, tweezers, nail clippers and hair clippers.
- Needlestick injury
- Blood-to-blood contact from fights
- Unprotected sex when there is blood (usually during rough or anal sex)
- From mother to child during pregnancy



## LOW RISK

## NO RISK



- Sharing food, drinks, plates, cups, knives, forks, spoons
- Hugging or kissing
- Blood transfusions/medical
- Spitting, coughing, sneezing
- Sharing toilets, sinks, showers



# HEPATITIS C GENOTYPES

There are several genotypes (or strains) of the Hep C virus.

Remember, you can be infected with more than one genotype. Even if you have Hep C, follow safer injecting practices.



## HEPATITIS C TESTING

### Antibody Test

Test for exposure to the virus

1

+

Exposed to Hep C virus

**NEGATIVE**  
Not exposed

### Virus test (PCR RNA)

Test for ongoing Hep C infection

2

+

Ongoing Hep C infection

**NEGATIVE**  
No Hep C infection

### Pre-Treatment (may include)

Fibroscan, PCR Genotype Test, liver function test, PCR Viral Load, Fibrosis Marker

3

### Treatment

A cure is available, talk to your doctor now.




**1 YEAR LATER, DAVE & SALLY ARE IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE**



THANKS FOR EVERYTHING DR NICK, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE RID OF THAT BLOODY VIRUS.

IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE DAVE, TAKE CARE.



OH MY GOD! IS THAT YOU DAVE?



G'DAY SAL, IT'S BEEN A WHILE.




YOU ARE LOOKING AMAZING. I DIDN'T EVEN RECOGNISE YOU.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR AGES?



I'VE BEEN DOIN' GOOD. I GOT A GIRLFRIEND. SHE'S COOL, SHE MOTIVATED ME TO START LOOKING AFTER MYSELF.



I DID THE HEP C TREATMENT. TODAY I FOUND OUT MY FINAL TEST WAS NEGATIVE.

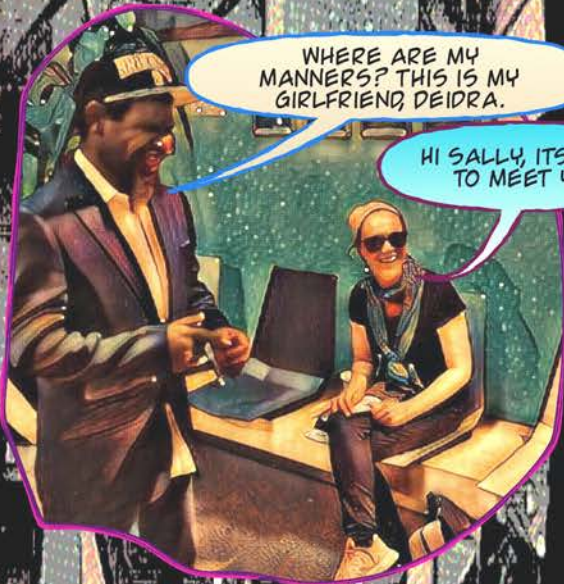
I'M FUCKEN' HEP C NEGATIVE.





DID THE TREATMENT MAKE YOU REALLY SICK?

NO. THE OLD HEP C TREATMENT HAD BAD SIDE EFFECTS. WITH THESE NEW MEDICATIONS, I HAD NO SIDE EFFECTS.



WHERE ARE MY MANNERS? THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND, DEIDRA.

HI SALLY, ITS GOOD TO MEET YOU.



WE GOTTA GO, ITS BEEN GOOD TO SEE YOU.

AWW, YOU DONT WANT TO HANG AROUND FOR A TASTE?

THANKS, BUT I CANT.



DID SHE JUST OFFER YOU HEROIN?

WHAT?? NO WAY. SHE WAS JUST ASKING IF WE WANTED TO GET LUNCH.

YEAH WHATEVER.



NICE TO MEET YOU DEIDRA. C YA DAVE, TAKE CARE.





SALLY!?? SALLY MAKABE!??



OH YES, THATS ME. I'M COMING.



HELLO SALLY

HEY DOCTOR NICK


COME ON THROUGH AND TAKE A SEAT.



IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU. WHAT CAN I HELP YOU WITH?

WELL, I NEED A NEW SCRIPT BUT IM ALSO INTERESTED IN THE NEW HEPATITIS C TREATMENT.





MY FRIEND JUST TOLD ME THAT THE TREATMENT ONLY GOES FOR 2 MONTHS.


THE TREATMENT CAN LAST FOR 2 TO 3 MONTHS DEPENDING ON WHICH GENOTYPE YOU HAVE.



WE'LL HAVE TO DO SOME BLOOD TESTS TO FIND OUT.



ONCE WE KNOW YOUR GENOTYPE WE'LL KNOW WHAT MEDICATION YOU'LL NEED.



THE SIDE EFFECTS ARE PRETTY MINIMAL. THERE'S NO INJECTIONS, JUST A COUPLE TABLETS EACH DAY.



I DONT WANNA DO IT IF THERE ARE BAD SIDE EFFECTS.

SWEET, IM DOWN FOR THAT. LETS DO IT.

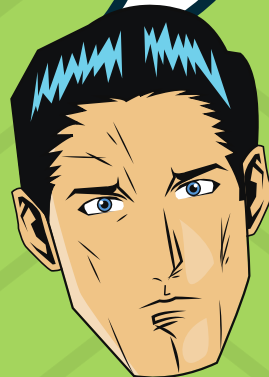


**GET FREE  
OF HEP C**

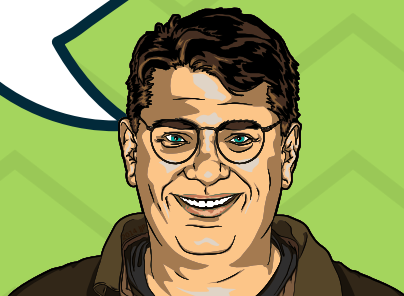
*"You might think that Hepatitis C is no big deal but you're living with a time bomb. Why wait until you get sicker?"*



*"I thought I never attempt treatment again. I heard a lot of positive things about the new treatment medications, I had to give it a try."*



*"It was so easy. I can finally say goodbye to that bloody virus and the label that goes along with it and start a new chapter of my life."*



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# FAQS

## HEPATITIS C TREATMENT

Q. Where can I get hepatitis C treatment?

A: Treatments now involve direct acting antiviral agents (DAA) drugs. They can be prescribed by your GP and doctors at hospital liver clinics. In prison, they are prescribed by clinic nurses or doctors.

Q. Where can I get a script?



A: The scripts can be filled by local or hospital pharmacies.

Q. How much does treatment cost?



A: Any adult with a Medicare card can be treated for around \$40 per script.

Q: What if I'm pregnant?

A: You must not father a child or become pregnant while on treatment and for six months after finishing treatment.

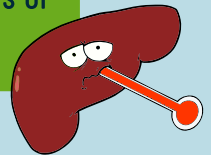


Q. How do I know which treatment is best for me?



A: There are lots of different hepatitis treatment options available. Before treatment, you will need to have some tests done. Your doctor will work out the best treatment for you.

Q: What if I have cirrhosis or other liver problems?



A: If you have cirrhosis or other liver problems, you will be sent to a local specialist for care and treatment.

**Not all doctors and pharmacies work with the new DAA drugs.**

**Call Hepatitis Infoline on 1800 803 990 or visit [hep.org.au/directory](http://hep.org.au/directory) for more information.**



# GET YOUR NALOXONE AT THESE PLACES

North Richmond Community Health  
23 Lennox Street, Richmond, 3121  
P: 03 9418 9830  
Open Monday to Friday  
9:30am to 5pm

cohealth - Health Works  
4 - 12 Buckley Street, Footscray 3011  
P: 03 9448 5511  
Open Monday to Friday  
10am to 6pm

Monash Primary Health Clinic/NSP 84  
Foster Street, Dandenong 3175  
P: 03 9792 7630  
Open Mon to Fri  
9am to 5pm

The Salvation Army, Access  
health/NSP  
29 Grey Street, St Kilda, 3182  
P: 03 9536 7703  
Open 24 Hours, 7 days

Barwon Health  
Drugs and Alcohol Services  
40 Little Malop Street, Geelong, 3220.  
P: 1800 196 850  
Open Monday to Friday  
9am to 5pm

The Living Room - Youth Projects  
7 - 9 Hosier Lane, Melbourne, 3000  
P: 03 99452100  
Open Monday to Friday  
9:30am to 4pm  
(Sat 12:00 to 5:30pm)

Star Health  
10 Inkerman Street, St Kilda, 3182  
P: 0459 988 137  
Open Monday to Friday  
9am to 5pm





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## ABOUT "AT THE CROSSROADS"

A route to Hepatitis C treatment

*"I have found so many Hep C resources that are made for clients, but do not involve clients in their development. I decided to provide an opportunity for clients to create an educational comic demonstrating the journey of Hep C - from transmission to diagnosis and treatment. I wanted to use real-life scenarios that clients could relate to."*

Stuart Armstrong  
(AOD Outreach Worker) talks  
about the journey of creating the  
'At The Crossroads' comic book.



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## Alcohol and Other Drugs

North Richmond Community Health  
23 Lennox St Richmond Victoria Australia 3121  
P: (03) 9418 9830

### Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm

Saturday & Sunday 9am to 5pm

Read more on the journey to 'At The Crossroads'  
at [www.nrch.com.au/xxx](http://www.nrch.com.au/xxx)


### Acknowledgements

Thank you to Duane, Julia, Simon, Stu and Amelia.



North Richmond Community Health (Wulempuri-Kertheba)  
stands on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people.  
We pay our respects to their elders, past and present.

 [nrch.com.au](http://nrch.com.au)

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