LiverWELL
Incorporating HEPATITISVICTORIA

Confidentiality and privacy.

Confidentiality protects your right to privacy. It is illegal for anyone to pass on your medical information without your permission; including to your partner, family, friends, employers or other healthcare workers.

Doctors, nurses, schools and teachers must keep information confidential – this means that they must not share information about you (such as hepatitis B or hepatitis C) with other people.

- What is privacy and confidentiality?
- Can doctors, nurses, teachers share your information?
- Is it illegal to pass on medical information without consent?

LiverWELL
Incorporating HEPATITISVICTORIA

Stigma.

Stigma is negative attitudes/thoughts/feelings about how someone acts or looks.

Stigma about viral hepatitis can make someone living with hepatitis B or hepatitis C feel rejected, 'othered', and awful about themselves. This can sometimes have lifelong effects on the person.

People living with hepatitis B or hepatitis C can be stigmatised because other people may not know about or have a fear of viral hepatitis.

We can stop stigma by:

- Calling out stigma if you see it.
- Helping others learn about hepatitis B and hepatitis C.
- Changing our language, behaviour and actions so they are positive and respectful.

- What is stigma?
- Why is there stigma about people living with hepatitis B and hepatitis C?
- Why should we stop stigma?
- How do we stop stigma?

LiverWELL
Incorporating HEPATITISVICTORIA

Discrimination.

Discrimination means being treated differently. Stigma and discrimination stop people from getting help.

People don't always have to tell others they have hepatitis B or hepatitis C.

Who can help?

Organisations like LiverWELL can help people living with hepatitis B or hepatitis C find support and care. There are many services and organisations that can help, such as community health services, alcohol and other drug services, multicultural services and youth organisations.

How can we help?

- Everyone should learn about hepatitis B and hepatitis C.
- Changing our language, behaviour and actions.
- Being open, empathetic and respectful.

- Why do people choose not to tell others they have hepatitis B or hepatitis C?
- How do we stop people living with hepatitis B or hepatitis C being treated differently and unfairly?
- What help is there for people living with hepatitis B or hepatitis C?

LiverWELL
Incorporating HEPATITISVICTORIA

Discrimination.

Discrimination means being treated differently or unfairly (because of your gender, religion, culture and health).

People can get bullied, treated unfairly and differently because they have hepatitis B or hepatitis C.

Some people living with hepatitis B and hepatitis C have been treated differently in hospitals by health workers, in school by teachers, and at work by other workers. This includes not getting a job or being accepted into a school, or getting unfavourable or unfair health care. Some people living with hepatitis B or hepatitis C may have also been treated differently by their family and friends.

- What is discrimination?
- How are people living with viral hepatitis being treated differently? Why?
- Where/what places do you think people living with hepatitis B or hepatitis C are being treated differently?
- What would you do if you saw someone being discriminated against?

LiverWELL
Incorporating HEPATITISVICTORIA

Disclosure.

Even when asked, you do not need to tell your doctor, dentist, the government, your work, your school/university or centrelink about your hepatitis B and hepatitis C status.

However, you must disclose information if you are joining the army, doing sports without the blood rule, or donating blood.

Why would someone let others know they are living with hepatitis B or hepatitis C?

- Worry or concern for others.
- Getting help from family, friends, and doctors.
- To get treated.
- Starting a relationship/family/ getting married.

- Do you have to tell your doctor you have hepatitis B or hepatitis C?
- Why would someone tell their doctor they have hepatitis B or hepatitis C?
- Why would someone tell others they have hepatitis B or hepatitis C?
- Who do you have to tell if you have hepatitis B or hepatitis C?

LiverWELL
Incorporating HEPATITISVICTORIA

Disclosure.

Disclosing your viral hepatitis status is not always easy, and there's no right or wrong way to disclose. The main thing to keep in mind is that you are in control of who you tell and how you tell them.

If someone is disclosing their hepatitis B or hepatitis C status to you, it is important to keep this information confidential.

Remember, there is information and support available.

- You can get tested for hepatitis C.
- There is a cure for hepatitis C.
- You can get tested and vaccinated for hepatitis B.
- If you are unvaccinated, you can get hepatitis B from condomless sex.
- Using a condom can prevent transmitting hepatitis B and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Take steps to prevent blood-to-blood transmission (such as not sharing grooming items or needles.)

There is treatment for people living with hepatitis B to lead a healthy and full life. A person living with hepatitis B should also see their doctor every 6 months to make sure their liver is healthy and being checked.

- If you have viral hepatitis, should you tell your family and friends?
- If you have viral hepatitis, should you tell your partner?
- Can you still be in a relationship if you or your partner has hepatitis B or hepatitis C?
- What are some ways you can prevent hepatitis B or hepatitis C transmission?