



INFORMATION FOR INMATES

Prison Needle Exchange Program (PNEP)

The PNEP gives inmates access to sterile needles to help reduce the sharing of needles and the spread of infectious disease, such as HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C. The PNEP may also help prevent skin infections caused by the sharing of needles.

The PNEP began at two federal institutions in June 2018. It will begin rolling out at other institutions across the country beginning in January 2019. Inmates on the PNEP will be given information about other health services, such as Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) and mental health services.

1. How can I participate in the PNEP?

Submit a request and meet with Health Services to discuss your participation. If you are approved by Health Services, Operations will complete a Threat Risk Assessment to see if there are any security concerns. If approved for the program, you will be given a PNEP kit for your personal use only.

2. What is in the PNEP kit?

The PNEP kit includes one syringe with a capped safety needle, a plastic container of sterile water, cotton filters, a pouch of vitamin C, and a sterile mixing cup for your personal use only.

3. Where do I keep the PNEP kit?

You must keep your PNEP kit in the location approved by the institution. Hiding the kit or its contents in a place other than the approved location may result in removal from the program and disciplinary measures.

4. Is the PNEP confidential?

Participation in the PNEP will be shared with others only on a need-to-know basis. This is like an inmate's participation in OAT.

5. Will the Parole Board of Canada (PBC) know if I am participating in the PNEP?

Your participation in the PNEP is health information and will not normally be shared with the PBC. However, if your Case Management Team identifies risk-related behaviours directly linked to your participation in the PNEP, participation and compliance information may be shared with the PBC. PNEP participation alone will not affect an inmate's application for parole.

6. Will I have more searches or observation if I participate in the PNEP?

No. Participation in the PNEP in itself is not grounds for more searching and observation. Other evidence, such as an inmate's abnormal state or possession of contraband, will be considered when making decisions to conduct additional searches and observation.

7. Will I face disciplinary action for using the PNEP?

Participating in the PNEP in itself will not result in disciplinary action. However, your participation in the program does not give you permission to use illegal and/or unauthorized drugs, which are contraband. Those caught having or using illegal drugs may face disciplinary action.

8. Can I exchange a used PNEP needle for a new sterile one?

Yes. You may exchange the PNEP syringe, capped needle, mixing cup, or other items in the PNEP kit, to Health Services as needed.

9. What happens if I lose a needle or one is stolen?

You must report a lost or stolen needle to health care staff immediately. A lost or stolen needle may result in disciplinary action. You may also be removed from participating in the PNEP based on another Threat Risk Assessment. An inmate who steals a PNEP kit and/or any of its contents will face disciplinary action.

Questions? Please ask Health Services.