

Using the Syringe Access Exchange Program in Grant County

PURPOSE

The syringe access exchange program can help you:

- Reduce the risk of getting diseases and infections spread by injection drug use.
- Safely dispose of contaminated needles and syringes.
- Connect you to other health care services.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

- The program operates from 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Grant County Health Center, 234 Barnes Road, Williamstown, Ky. Most people will come weekly for clean syringes and other services.
- The program is **open to anyone** who uses injection drugs.
- Exchange of needles and oral HIV testing will be provided anonymously—no name is required; however, other health services, such as blood tests for hepatitis C, HIV, syphilis, pregnancy tests, and immunizations will be provided confidentially, so your name will be collected and a medical record will be generated. These records are kept separate from the syringe access exchange program.
- Substance abuse counseling will be available.
- Syringes and equipment provided are **free of charge**. Other services, like confirmatory testing for hepatitis C and syphilis may be billed per the regular sliding scale fee or to your health insurance, if eligible. No participant will be turned away for inability to pay.
- The program is designed to move participants through the clinic quickly. Syringe exchange services will operate separately from other services offered at the health center.
- You will be required to agree to a list of **Participant Rights and Responsibilities**. Items covered by this policy include safely disposing of contaminated equipment and refraining from drug use on Health Department property. Violations can result in dismissal from the program.
- **Specially trained Health Department nurses will staff the program.**
- You can be referred to a variety of other health services, including:
 - Treatment for a substance use disorder
 - Other Health Department programs such as enrollment in health insurance coverage for those eligible, HIV case management, sexually transmitted disease treatment, family planning, etc.
 - Wound care treatment
 - Primary medical care
 - Mental health care

Data Collected

The Health Department collects information to evaluate the syringe access exchange program and to ensure it is working.

When you visit, the nurse will may ask you to answer the following questions—*all are voluntary and data is not tied to your name:*

- Age
- ZIP code where you live
- Gender
- How often you inject drugs each day
- How many needles you brought for proper disposal