

## Who Supports Over-the-Counter Sale of Syringes?

Supporters include physicians, nurses, physician assistants, healthcare workers, AIDS awareness advocates and liver disease educators, as well as:

AIDS Healthcare Foundation  
AIDS Project LA  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Pharmaceutical Association  
American Public Health Association  
California Medical Association  
California Nurses Association  
California Pharmacists Association  
National Association of Boards of Pharmacy  
U.S. Conference of Mayors  
Walgreens

## Interested in learning more?

For more information, contact the  
**Los Angeles County Disease  
Prevention Demonstration Project**

Tel: 213-240-8196

Email: [LASB1159@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:LASB1159@ph.lacounty.gov)

[www.lapublichealth.org/php/DPDP](http://www.lapublichealth.org/php/DPDP)

To speak with a Drug Policy Alliance community advocate, who can answer questions and provide trainings,

contact Meghan Ralston

Tel: (213) 201-4787

Email: [mralston@drugpolicy.org](mailto:mralston@drugpolicy.org).

**[www.HelpStopHepC.com](http://www.HelpStopHepC.com)**

SUPPORTED BY THE CALIFORNIA  
ENDOWMENT

DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE  
610 S. ARDMORE AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90005

# Pharmacy Syringe Sales

## Preventing Transmission of HIV and HCV



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISEASE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM  
THAT ALLOWS PHARMACIES  
TO SELL UP TO 10 SYRINGES  
TO ADULTS WITHOUT A  
PRESCRIPTION

# The Health of Millions of Angelenos Depends on Reliable Access to Needles and Syringes.

By providing needles and syringes without requiring a prescription, pharmacies support better health of **diabetics, transgendered individuals taking hormones, individuals using injectible medications to treat their Hepatitis C, and so many others** who might share needles due to lack of access to clean ones. Enrollment in this program takes just minutes and participation is easy.

## HEPATITIS

About 180,000 Angelenos have hepatitis C, a potentially life-threatening liver disease. Many opt for Interferon treatment, which usually requires three to five injections a week. Pharmacy syringe sales make it easier for people to manage this type of life-saving treatment.



## MIGRAINES

For many Angelenos, migraines can become debilitating. To relieve suffering, many people are prescribed injectible medication. Being able to buy syringes without a prescription through local pharmacies helps people deal with the pain of migraines without added inconvenience—and even on a Sunday when doctors' offices are not open.



Senate Bill (SB) 1159 created the **Disease Prevention Demonstration Project** in 2005. The law allows registered pharmacies to sell up to 10 hypodermic needles or syringes to adults without a prescription in cities and counties that have authorized DPDP.

Los Angeles County authorized the program in 2005, and began registering pharmacies on February 1, 2007.

**Over 200 LA area pharmacies have already registered to sell syringes without a prescription under DPDP, including two major pharmacy chains.**

Under Los Angeles County DPDP, registered pharmacies may sell up to 10 syringes to anyone over the age 18. The pharmacy must be registered with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health.

## When Pharmacies Sell Syringes Without a Prescription, They Help Prevent The Spread of Blood-Borne Diseases, Including HIV and HCV.

[www.HelpStopHepC.com](http://www.HelpStopHepC.com)



## FERTILITY DRUGS

For those trying to conceive, injectible fertility treatments can sometimes be a daily necessity. When a woman decides that injecting herself at home is easier than regular—and expensive—trips to the doctor, she needs reliable access to syringes. Now that you don't need a prescription to buy syringes at certain pharmacies, partners, family and friends can pick up syringes for her.

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISEASE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

## MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

Many people treat multiple sclerosis with injectible medication, and keeping to the injection schedule is important. Now when people with MS run out of syringes and don't have a copy of their prescription one hand, the pharmacy doesn't need to call the doctor for approval before selling them syringes.



**DRUG POLICY ALLIANCE**

Reason. Compassion. Justice.