

# HEALTH ALERT

You will have seen on TV and radio and in the newspapers that there have been several deaths in Lanarkshire and Glasgow recently. Injecting drug users are most at risk.

It is thought that an unusual bacteria (bug) is contaminating heroin supplies. This bug causes infection that spreads rapidly and leads to gangrene.

If the vein is missed and more citric acid than normal is needed, it is particularly dangerous.

Half the people infected have died very suddenly - many despite being treated in hospital.

The best advice is

- ✓ **do not inject - smoke your heroin**
- ✓ if you see any **abscesses** anywhere on your body or **inflammation round an injection site** then **seek medical attention immediately**. There are **Accident and Emergency (Casualty) Depts.** at **Monklands Hospital near Airdrie, Hairmyres Hospital in East Kilbride and Law Hospital near Carluke**. You can also see your GP if you are worried.
- ✓ use a **small (minimum) amount of citric** to dissolve your heroin
- ✓ if you must inject then avoid muscle popping and other injecting outside your veins (please avoid trying to find an artery instead) - **smoking your heroin is far safer.**

**This is a serious situation.  
Look after yourself and your friends.**



**LANARKSHIRE DRUG ACTION TEAM**