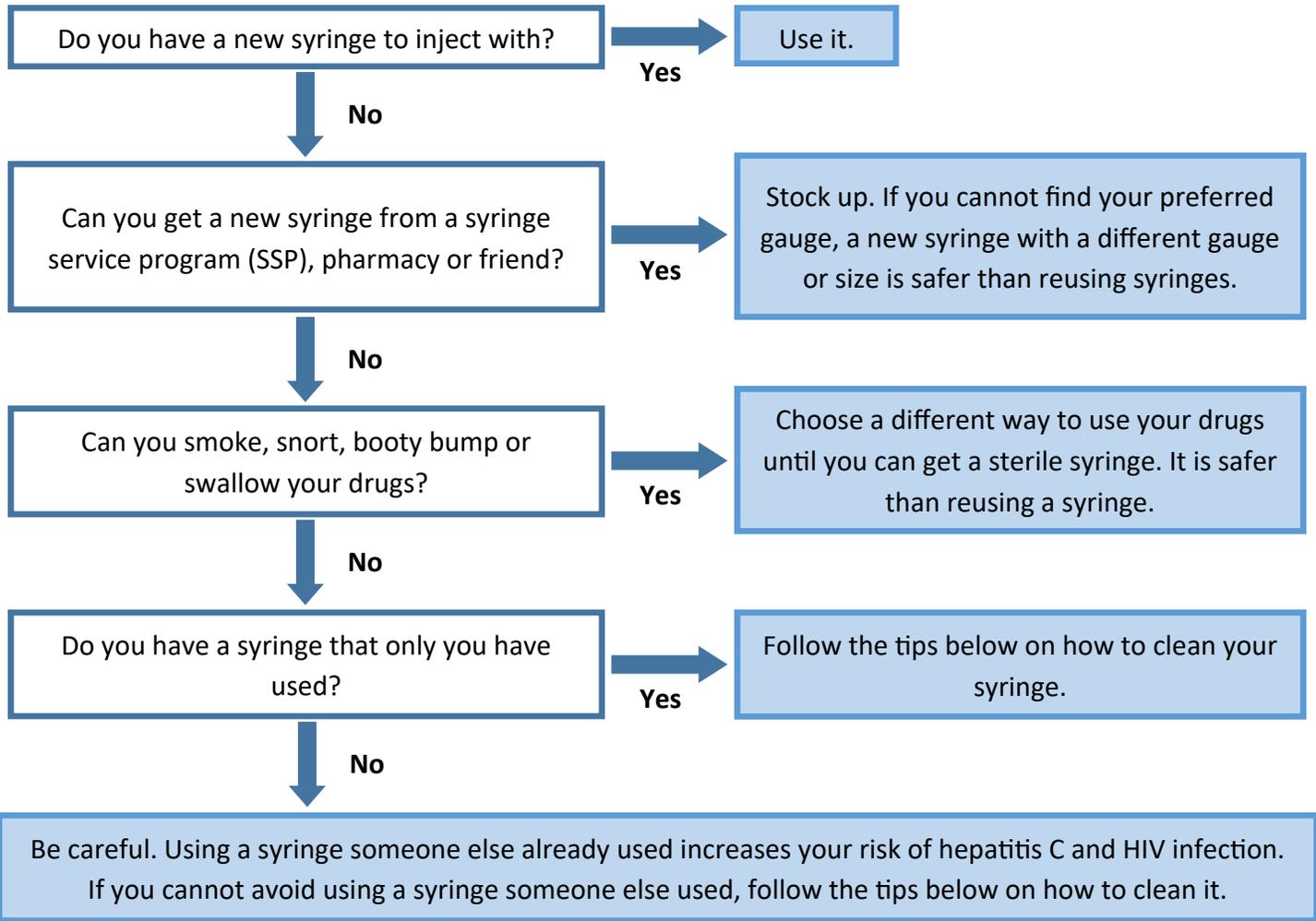


Safer Syringe Reuse Practices

This flowchart can help you lower your risks of harm if you inject drugs.



Tips for Reusing Syringes

- You should not use the same syringe if you can avoid it. Reusing or recapping a syringe after use dulls the needle, which can cause soft tissue infections and abscesses.
- If you need new, sterile syringes, you can:
 - Contact your local SSP to get sterile drug use supplies or naloxone. To find an SSP, visit nyc.gov/health and search for **syringe service programs**.
 - Go to an Expanded Syringe Access Program (ESAP) provider. ESAP providers are located at pharmacies that sell or give out sterile syringes. To find an ESAP pharmacy near you, go to health.ny.gov and search for **ESAP**.
- If you cannot avoid using the same syringe, rinse it before reusing.
 - If you have bleach available:
 - **Step 1:** Fill the syringe with bottled or cold tap water. Tap the syringe. Squirt out the water and repeat at least three times.
 - **Step 2:** Fill the syringe with bleach. Tap the syringe. Squirt out the bleach and repeat at least three times.
 - **Step 3:** Repeat step 1.
 - If you do not have bleach, complete only step 1 above. Rinsing with water is safer than not rinsing at all.
- Use a flat surface to help steady your arms when you inject.
- Store capped syringes in a dry place with the needle pointing upward.