

Body and Beauty Art

Body Piercing

What is the Health Risk?

You and your clients are at risk of being exposed to HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or other microorganisms such as bacteria or fungi.

You do not have to see blood or body fluids on equipment or surfaces for an infection to occur.

Ear piercing devices shall not be used on any other part of the body except the ear lobes (fleshy part only).

Before you begin a service:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with liquid soap under warm running water and then dry with disposable paper towel; see the **Handwashing poster**.
- Set up all equipment and supplies that will be used.
- Wear new, single use, disposable gloves for each client.
- Apply topical anesthetic (optional) prior to cleaning the skin with an antiseptic.
- Mark the piercing site using the procedure below:
 1. Clean with a skin antiseptic, such as 70% isopropyl alcohol, using a disposable swab.
 2. Mark (use iodine felt tip pen, gentian violet or iodine using a tooth pick).
 3. Allow the marking site to dry.
 4. Clean for a second time with an approved skin antiseptic.
- Use sterile jewelry. Avoid direct hand contact with jewelry to prevent contamination. Open jewelry packaging in view of client.
- Use sterile instruments to handle, manipulate, or hold sterile jewelry and sterile piercing needles, such as forceps, receiving tubes, captive bead ring opening/closing pliers, tongue depressors, etc.
- Do not spray sterile jewelry with disinfectant prior to piercing.
- Apply sterile lubricating gels by squeezing from a single use package directly onto the client's skin.

After you have finished a service:

- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds with liquid soap under warm running water and then dry with disposable paper towel; see the **Handwashing poster**.
- Provide your client with verbal and written information on piercing aftercare.
- Aftercare information should include
 - keep pierced area dry; normal bathing and showering are permitted;

Body and Beauty Art

- clean hands before touching jewellery;
 - avoid turning jewellery when wound is not dry;
 - indicate the expected healing time and possible complications that may arise including their signs and symptoms;
 - explain how to deal with slight redness, pain or swelling and recommend consulting a medical professional if the problem does not improve within 24 hours;
 - advise not to remove the jewellery from a potentially infected piercing and to contact the piercer and seek medical advice.
- Discard needle into an approved puncture resistant sharps container. Do not overfill, empty, or touch contents of a sharps container. Do not discard sharps into the municipal garbage.
 - Discard any used single use forceps, receiving tubes, captive bead ring opening/closing pliers after each client.
 - Clean* and sterilize reusable piercing equipment such as forceps, captive bead ring opening/closing pliers. Package the instruments in an opened position prior to sterilization.
 - Ensure proper sterilizer monitoring is being conducted prior to placing cleaned, packaged instruments into sterilizer; see the **How to Monitor Your Sterilizer fact sheet**.
 - Store the cleaned, packaged and sterile piercing instruments in a clean, covered container when not in use.
 - Clean* and then disinfect headrests, worktables and chairs between clients using a low-level disinfectant, such as 1 tsp of bleach to 10 cups of water, allowing it to contact the surface for 10 minutes.

***See the General and Operational Requirements fact sheet for detailed cleaning and disinfecting steps.**

Records:

- Body piercing is an invasive procedure. Records must be kept of every client who has received an invasive procedure. This record must include
 - date of procedure;
 - full name (first and last) of personal service worker;
 - client name (first and last);
 - complete mailing address;
 - telephone number;
 - details of the procedure carried out.
- Client records and accidental blood and body fluids exposure records must be kept on site for a minimum of one year and on file for five years.

Additional Requirements:

- Check with your Public Health Inspector prior to purchasing new piercing equipment.



Body and Beauty Art

- Previously opened packages of jewelry can no longer be considered sterile. Any jewelry stored in opened or damaged packages may no longer be used to pierce the skin.
- Lubricating gels used to ease the piercing must come from sterile single use packages. Non sterile lubricating gels dispensed from bulk containers are not permitted.
- Dermal punch tools must be sterile, single-use disposable items and discarded into an approved puncture resistant sharps container. Do not overfill, empty, or touch contents of a sharps container. Do not discard sharps into the municipal garbage.
- Close-ended receiving tubes must be sterile, single use and disposable.
- Soak used piercing equipment in soapy water if time does not permit immediate cleaning. This does not apply to used, single use disposable equipment.
- Ultrasonic cleaners must be operated with the lid on. Use distilled water or a solution recommended by the ultrasonic's manufacturer. Equipment must be pre-cleaned prior to being placed in the ultrasonic cleaner.
- Avoid needle stick injuries by having a magnet in your first aid kit to pick up dropped needles.
- Post your written back up plan in the sterilization area.
- See the **Sterilization fact sheet** and the **How to Monitor Your Sterilizer fact sheet** if equipment is sterilized onsite.
- Consider the use of commercially purchased sterile, prepackaged needles and instruments.

Source: Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Services Settings, January 2009.

November 2012