

Fact Sheet

Body Piercing

Body piercing is a risk factor for the transmission of blood-borne infections such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. **Infection prevention and control precautions must be followed to protect both personal service workers and clients.**

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

The following information is a supplement to the general operational requirements for personal service establishments.

Infection Prevention and Control Requirements

- Hands must be washed:
 - before and after each client,
 - before and after wearing gloves, and
 - in between breaks in service.
- Wear single use gloves for each client.
- Gloves must be changed between clients and between breaks in providing service to the same client.
- Remove items not required from the work area including food and/or drinks.
- Have all required supplies for service available and in easy reach.
- Cover work surfaces or items that cannot be disinfected with single use disposable coverings.
- Use single use, disposable, sterile needles and discard immediately after use in an approved sharps container.
- Only sterile jewellery is to be used for piercing.
- Jewellery assembled by body piercer must be individually packaged and sterilized on site.
- Do not open sterile, packaged equipment until ready to begin procedure.
- Use a no-touch technique to avoid direct contact with piercing site or sterile piercing equipment.
- Before piercing, the site must be:
 - Cleaned with an approved skin antiseptic:
 - Then marked with an 'iodine' felt tip/marketing pen. Once the pen mark has dried, clean the site(s) again with an approved skin antiseptic just prior to piercing.
 - Single use items i.e. toothpicks, can be used to mark such areas.

- Re-useable equipment must be cleaned and disinfected or sterilized as required.
- Store multi-use tools in a clean, covered container when not in use.
- Provide client with verbal and written after-care instructions including instructions to seek medical advice if complications occur.
- Use antibacterial mouth rinse for oral, or mouth piercing.

Blood and Body Fluids Exposure

- Document all client and operator exposure to blood and body fluids.
- Keep client records and accidental blood and body fluids exposure records on site for one year and on file for five years.
- Hepatitis B vaccination for staff is strongly recommended.

Equipment

- Re-useable equipment must be manually cleaned or cleaned in an ultrasonic cleaner, then disinfected and sterilized as required. (See Fact sheet on Sterilization).
- Used needles/sharps must be placed into a puncture-resistant, leak-proof container with a tight-fitting lid and properly labelled with a biological hazard sign.
- Any lubricant or ointments used during the procedures must be dispensed in a manner which does not contaminate the bulk container.
- Callipers used to measure the piercing site must be cleaned and disinfected with low level disinfectant at a minimum.

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Equipment cont.

- Equipment that comes in contact with sterile needle or jewellery must also be sterile and pre-packaged (e.g. forceps, needle pushers, connectors, pliers).
- If a dermal punch tool is used on the client, it must be sterile, pre-packaged and single use. These (biopsy) tools cannot be re-used and must be disposed of in an approved sharps container immediately after use.
- Items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected must be discarded immediately after use (e.g. corks, elastic bands).
- Closed-ended receiving tubes must be sterile, single-use and disposable. Open ended receiving tubes can be cleaned with a wire brush and sterilized between uses.



It is strongly recommended not to pierce the genitalia of persons under 18 years old or the nipples of women of child bearing age.

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROTECTION
OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION**