



Body Piercing Guidelines for Operators



- Contact surfaces must have a smooth non absorbent finish.
- Work area must be well lit.
- Setting must be equipped with at least one sink for hand washing which is conveniently located near work area but at least one metre away from clean or sterile supplies. Sinks must be continuously supplied with potable hot and cold running water, dispensable liquid soap and single-use hand towels in a dispenser.
- If there is only one sink available on the premises, it may be used for both hand washing and cleaning of equipment/instruments providing it satisfies specific requirements.
- All equipment/instruments must be of durable construction, in good repair and in clean and sanitary condition.
- All biological monitoring, blood and body fluid exposure and client records are to be kept for five years; at least one year on-site.
- Immunization with Hepatitis B vaccine is strongly recommended for all personal service workers.

Operational Requirements and Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines:

- Service is to be provided in a manner that reduces the risk of transmission of microorganisms to the client and the personal service worker.
- Service is to be provided in a manner that prevents disease transmission.
- Routine Practices are to be used with all clients during service delivery and include:
 - Hand hygiene

- Clean, non-sterile gloves for:
 - Contact with blood or body fluids.
 - When handling visibly soiled items.
 - When the personal service worker has non-intact skin and,
 - Other situations as appropriate.

- Face protection and gowns when appropriate.
- Hands must be washed for at least 15 seconds with soap and warm running water:
 - Before and after each client treatment.
 - Immediately before and after applying and removing gloves and,
 - When otherwise appropriate.

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers (containing 60-90% alcohol) may be used if hands are not visibly soiled.
- All equipment/instruments that cannot be easily and thoroughly cleaned will be considered as single-use disposable.
- All reusable equipment/instruments are to be cleaned then either disinfected or sterilized after each use.
- Manual cleaning involves the use of a detergent and water solution and scrubbing (the use of friction) to remove soil.
- All product labels for disinfectants must have a drug identification number (DIN), with the exception of hypochlorite.
- Clean items must be stored separately from dirty items to prevent cross-contamination.
- Contact surfaces that cannot be easily or adequately cleaned and disin-

ected between use must be covered with single-use disposable covers and the cover is to be discarded after each use.

- Manufacturer's instructions are to be followed for dilution, use, reuse and contact time of disinfectants.
- Only autoclaves, dry heat sterilizers, chemical autoclaves are approved methods of sterilization; sterilization is to be maintained until point of use.
- Physical and chemical monitoring are to be used during each sterilization load.
- Biological monitoring (spore testing) is to be done bi-weekly (every other week).
- The Personal Service owner/operator must contact their local health unit for every sterilizer failure immediately upon notification from the laboratory.
- All sharps that are intended for use to penetrate the skin and/or mucous membranes must be provided as sterile, single-use disposable items; an approved sharps container is to be used for used disposable sharps immediately after each single use.
- Sharps containers must be discarded in accordance with biomedical waste regulation.

Specific Requirements:

- All jewellery used for body piercing must be sterile. If piercing needle or jewellery is made or modified by a piercer prior to use, it may be cleaned either manually or by ultrasonic cleaner, then packaged and sterilized by an acceptable method (refer to "General Requirements").
- The site/s to be pierced must first be cleaned with an approved skin antiseptic, then marked with an (iodine) felt tip/marketing pen prior to piercing. After one minute, once the pen mark has dried, the site is to be cleaned again with the approved skin antiseptic just prior to piercing.
- If using dermal punch method, (biopsy) tools must be purchased as sterile, single-use disposable items. These devices cannot be re-used and must be disposed in an approved sharps container immediately after use.
- If corks are used to "catch" the needle, they must also be discarded in the sharps container with needle attached.
- Close-ended receiving tubes must be sterile, single-use and disposable. Open ended receiving tubes can be cleaned with a wire brush and then sterilized between uses.

- Following each piercing, all non-disposable equipment must be cleaned and then sterilized.
- Clients must be given verbal and written aftercare such as:
 - Normal bathing and showering are permitted but otherwise keep the pierced area dry.
 - Clean hands immediately before touching jewellery.
 - Do not turn jewellery when wound is dry.
 - Allow access of the wound to air by using a loose covering.
 - Expected healing time of the wound.
 - Possible complications, and their signs and symptoms.
 - How to deal with slight redness, pain or swelling and recommend consultation with a family physician if the problem does not improve within 24 hours and,
 - Advise client not to remove jewellery from a potentially infected piercing and to contact the piercer and seek medical advice.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT.



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