



General Guidelines for Ear Lobe Piercing

- 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.
 - Face protection and gowns when appropriate and,
 - Other situations as 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.
- 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.

- Manufacturer's instructions are to be followed for dilution, use, reuse and contact time of disinfectants.

Additional requirements:

- Ear piercing instruments must not be used on any part of the body except the fleshy part of the ear lobes.
- The person performing the ear piercing must wear single-use disposable gloves on both hands during the procedure.
- Ear piercing instruments without sterile, single-use disposable plastic adapters or cartridges that come in direct contact with the ear during the piercing procedure must be cleaned and then sterilized between each client use. If the ear piercing gun/instrument cannot be sterilized, it must not be used.
- Piercing instruments equipped with disposable parts must be cleaned and then disinfected with an intermediate to high-level disinfectant after each client.
- Jewellery must be supplied pre-packaged and sterile.
- Jewellery intended for piercing cannot be sampled or returned.
- Do not spray sterile earrings with disinfectant solution prior to piercing
- The ear lobe must first be cleaned with an approved skin antiseptic, then marked with an (iodine) felt tip/mark- ing 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.
- After each client, all disposable parts must be discarded. Previously opened packages of jewellery can no longer be considered sterile. Any jewellery stored in opened or damaged packages may no longer be used to pierce the skin.
- Store the piercing instrument in a sanitary manner to prevent contamination. Instruments that are sterilized must be stored properly in order to maintain sterility.
- Clients must be given verbal and written ear piercing after care 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.
- 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 seek medical advice.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT.



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