



Body and Beauty Art

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

Before you begin a service:

- Set up all equipment and supplies that will be used.
- 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**.
- Wear new, single use, disposable gloves for each client.
- Use sterile, prepackaged jewellery. Avoid direct hand contact with jewellery to prevent contamination. Open sterile packaging in view of client.
- Do not spray sterile earrings with disinfectant prior to piercing.
- 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 a skin antiseptic.

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 after gloves have been discarded.
- Provide your client with verbal and written information on ear piercing aftercare.
- Aftercare information should include
 - keep pierced area dry; normal bathing and showering are permitted;
 - 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;



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- 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 disposable capsules, adapters, and cartridges immediately after every client.
- Clean* and then disinfect the ear piercing device, which uses **single use, disposable cartridges or adapters**, with an intermediate level disinfectant such as 70% isopropyl alcohol. Allow the device to soak for 10 minutes in the disinfectant, after each client.
- Store the cleaned and disinfected piercing device 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:

- Ear 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's full 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.
- Ear piercing devices that **do not use** pre-sterilized, disposable parts are not recommended.
- 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.

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

July 2014