



## Guidance for Operators: BODY PIERCING

**HEALTH CONCERN:** Equipment /instruments used for body piercing may become contaminated with blood or body fluids carrying blood-borne diseases such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. You do not have to see blood or body fluids on instruments for transmission of infection to occur.

### LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Personal Service Settings (PSS) are required to operate in compliance with **Ontario Regulation 136/18: Personal Service Settings**.

Operators and staff of PSSs are encouraged to review the **Guide to Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Service Settings** from Public Health Ontario to learn more about infection prevention and control practices that reduce the risk of transmission of infections in PSS.

### INFORMED CONSENT

Before providing service, operators must provide clients with an explanation of the procedure and information about any risks associated with the procedure. The service provider must keep a record to document that the information was provided.

### OPERATOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Wear gloves during service.
- Wash hands before putting gloves on and after taking them off.
- Practice good personal hygiene.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke during service.
- SWPH recommends that all operators be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

### SKIN PREPARATION

- Do not provide service to clients who have cuts, wounds, rashes or visible skin infections within 6 inches of the area that is being worked on.
- If hair removal is required, use a single-use disposable razor.

continued ...

# Guidance for Operators: BODY PIERCING

## SKIN PREPARATION

- If marking skin with a single-use marker or toothpick, mark skin and when the mark dries, apply skin antiseptic.
- Prior to the procedure, apply skin antiseptic. Use soap and water to clean the area first if it is visibly soiled. Skin antiseptics include, but is not limited to:
  - o Povidone-iodine solution
  - o Isopropyl alcohol (50 - 91%)
  - o Ethyl alcohol (60 - 95%)
- If applicable, a topical local anesthetic can be used after applying a skin antiseptic.

## POST-TREATMENT SKIN CARE

- Wipe the pierced area with an approved skin antiseptic.
- If an ointment or lubricant is used, it must be dispensed in a manner that prevents contamination i.e. no double dipping.
- Clients must be given verbal and written aftercare instructions which must include:
  - o Clean hands immediately before touching the site
  - o Cover the modified area, where applicable, with a single-use dressing intended to cover wounds
  - o Expected healing time of the site
  - o Description of possible complications and their signs and symptoms
  - o Advice on how to deal with slight redness, pain, or swelling
  - o Recommendation to consult with a health care provider within 24 hours if any signs of an infection develop following the procedure

## INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

### Surfaces

- All surfaces and equipment that are handled during service and cannot be properly disinfected or sterilized after the service (example: magnifying lamps) are to be covered with single use plastic covering (i.e. plastic sleeves or plastic wrap).

### Jewellery

- Jewellery must be single-use, pre-packaged and sterile. Use a no-touch technique to avoid direct contact with piercing equipment and the piercing site.
- Jewellery must be used before the expiration date. If they pass their expiration date, you must throw them out.
- Previously opened packages of jewellery or damaged packages are not considered sterile; therefore they cannot be used.

### Equipment

- All reusable instruments must be cleaned and disinfected or sterilized prior to use.
- All sterilized instruments should remain in their sterile package until they are ready to be used.
- Ear piercing guns/devices are not to be used on any other part of the body except the ear lobes (fleshy part only).

continued ...

# Guidance for Operators: BODY PIERCING

## CLEANING, DISINFECTION AND STERILIZATION

### Cleaning

- All instruments, equipment and surfaces that require cleaning, disinfection or sterilization **MUST** be completely disassembled first. Items must then be cleaned in warm water with soap or detergent.
- Linens must be laundered after use. There should be an adequate supply available.
- Routine cleaning of walls, floors, ceilings and surfaces are to be maintained.

### Disinfection and Sterilization

- All Disinfectants must be made fresh daily or according to manufacturer's instructions. All disinfectants must have a drug identification number (DIN) or a natural product number (NPN) issued by Health Canada.

LEVEL	WHEN TO USE	EXAMPLES
Low Level Disinfection	Equipment and instruments or items that do not directly contact the client or contact only hair or intact skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Service tray</li><li>• Environmental surfaces</li><li>• Instrument container</li></ul>
Intermediate Level Disinfection	Equipment, instruments, or items that are intended to contact only intact skin, but that may accidentally come into contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes or penetrate the skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Calipers</li></ul>
High Level Disinfection	Any surfaces, equipment or tools that may come in contact with blood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Needle pushers</li><li>• Scissors used to cut cannulas</li></ul>
Sterilization	Equipment and instruments or items that penetrate the skin or enter sterile tissue. Also, some other equipment with high risk of transmission if contaminated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forceps and clamps</li><li>• Tapers</li><li>• Ring-opening and ring-closing pliers</li></ul>

See [Disinfection Chart](#) for information on approved disinfectants and contact time.

See [Sterilization for Operators](#) fact sheet.

continued ...

# Guidance for Operators: BODY PIERCING

## WASTE DISPOSAL

- Throw waste that has blood and/or body fluids on it in a leak-proof bag.
- Throw out single-use tools and equipment after use.
- Single-use sharps must be thrown out in an approved sharps container which meets the standards of Canadian Standards Association.
- Sharps containers are to be sealed and replaced when the contents reach the fill line marked on the container or when three-quarters full.

## RECORD KEEPING

### Client Records

- Before providing service, the PSS must obtain and record the following information:
  - o Client's name and contact information
  - o Name of service provider
  - o Record what service the client received
  - o Record that the client was provided an explanation of the procedure and risks
  - o Dates of the procedure
  - o Lot numbers and expiry date of the pre-packaged sterile equipment

### High Level Disinfectants

- If using high level disinfectants, PSS are required to record information outlined in the **Disinfection Record Log**.

### Accidental Blood or Body Fluid Exposures

- PSS are required record all accidental blood or body fluid exposures. Records must include information outlined in the **Accidental Blood Exposure Log**.

### Record Retention

- Records must be kept onsite for one year. After the first year, the records must be retained and kept readily available in a secure location for at least two years.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact your area Public Health Inspector at **1-800-922-0096**.



## MORE INFORMATION



### Southwestern Public Health

#### St. Thomas Site

519-631-9900

#### Woodstock Site

519-421-9901

1-800-922-0096 | [www.swpublichealth.ca](http://www.swpublichealth.ca)