Services that break the skin, such as body piercing, could lead the transmission of blood-borne infections such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

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

The following guidelines, as outlined in the Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Services Settings document should be carefully followed to prevent the spread of infections between clients and personal service providers (PSP).

Prior to service:
- Cover any work surfaces or items that cannot be cleaned and disinfected with single-use disposable coverings.
- Remove any items not required from the work area including food and/or drinks.
- Have all required supplies for service available and in easy reach.
- Hands must be washed thoroughly with warm water, liquid soap and dried using a single-use towel.

During service:
- Single-use, disposable gloves must be changed between procedures with the same clients and between clients. Single-use disposable gloves must never be reused or washed.
- Open sterile, packaged equipment only when ready to begin procedure. Discard any packaging that appears to have been opened or damaged.
- Equipment that comes in contact with sterile needle or jewellery (e.g. forceps, needle pushers, connectors, pliers) must also be sterile and pre-packaged.
- If a dermal punch tool is used on the client, it must be sterile, single use, pre-packaged and disposed of in an approved sharps containers after each use.
- Use single-use, disposable, sterile needles and discard immediately after use in an approved sharps container.
- Dispense creams, lotions and ointments using single-use applicators. Discard leftover creams and lotions.
- Use a no-touch technique to avoid direct contact with piercing site or sterile piercing equipment.
- The site(s) to be pierced must first be:
  - cleaned with an approved skin antiseptic;
  - then marked with an ‘iodine’ felt tip/marking pen, after one minute, once the pen mark has dried, the site/s are to be cleaned again with the approved skin antiseptic just prior to piercing. Single-use items (e.g. toothpicks, etc.) can also be used to mark such areas.

After service:
- Used needles/sharps must be discarded into a puncture-resistant, leak-proof container with a tight-fitting lid and properly labelled with a biological hazard sign.
- Callipers used to measure the piercing site must be cleaned and disinfected with low level disinfectant.
- 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 disposed after every use. Open ended receiving tubes can be cleaned with a wire brush and sterilized between uses.
- Store soiled instruments in a labelled container for cleaning and disinfection or sterilization.
- Use antibacterial mouth rinse for oral, or mouth piercing.
- Provide client with verbal and written after-care instructions.
Blood and Body Fluid Exposure

- Provide client with verbal and written after-care instructions including instructions to seek medical advice if complications occur.
- Record all accidental blood and bodily fluid exposures on an Accidental Blood Exposure form. Store records on site for one year and off-site for five years.
- Hepatitis B vaccination for staff is strongly recommended.

*See the factsheet, How to Clean Instruments in Personal Service Settings for detailed cleaning and disinfection steps.