

Body Piercing



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/marketing 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.*](#)

Alternate formats of this document are available upon request.

Region of Waterloo Public Health and Paramedic Services

Health Protection and Investigation

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