

## Additional Guidelines for Body Piercing

### Body Piercing:

- All facilities are to follow “**General Guidelines**” fact sheets.

### Additional requirements:

- All jewellery used for body piercing must be sterile. If piercing needle or jewellery is made or modified by a piercer prior to use, it may be cleaned either manually or by ultrasonic cleaner, then packaged and sterilized by an acceptable method (refer to “General Requirements”).
- The site(s) to be pierced must first be cleaned with an approved skin antiseptic, then marked with an (iodine) felt tip/marketing pen before 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.
- If using dermal punch method, (biopsy) tools must be purchased as sterile, single-use disposable items. These devices cannot be re-used and must be disposed in an approved sharps container immediately after use.
- If corks are used to “catch” the needle, they must also be discarded in the sharps container with needle attached.
- Close-ended receiving tubes must be sterile, single-use and disposable. Open ended receiving tubes can be cleaned with a wire brush and then sterilized between uses.
- Following each piercing, all non-disposable equipment must be cleaned and then sterilized.
- Clients must be given verbal and written aftercare such as:
  - Normal bathing and showering are permitted but otherwise keep the pierced area dry.
  - Clean hands immediately before touching jewellery.
  - Turn jewellery when wound is not dry.
  - Allow access of the wound to air by using a loose covering.
  - 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.
  - Advise client not to remove jewellery from a potentially infected piercing and to contact the piercer and seek medical advice.

For more information, contact

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