

This material is taken directly from the Tattoo / Body Piercing Rules, 3.3 B for tattooing or 3.4 B for piercing. The procedures you follow should conform to these rules and should be part of your disclosure information.

## **INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES SPECIFIC TO TATTOOING**

1. A spray bottle containing a mixture of soap and water can be used to clean the skin and for lubrication for shaving the area. Spray bottles should not be topped off and should be cleaned daily.
2. Use an antiseptic (for example, 70% isopropyl alcohol) on the skin in the area to be tattooed. Antiseptics should be wiped on in a circular manner using gauze or a swab. To saturate the swab or gauze, use a pump pack or pour antiseptic from its storage container into a disposable cup. The antiseptic must dry on the skin before penetration of the skin can begin. Use water instead of antiseptic around the eye.
3. Lubricating jelly in pump containers should be dispensed onto a clean single-use applicator. If more jelly is needed, a new applicator should be used. Never remove jelly from the pump using fingers or gloves. Alternatively, use single-use packages of jelly. Do not use deodorant sticks to moisten the skin.
4. Inks, dyes, and pigments should be non-toxic and need to be sterilized before use. Inks, dyes, and pigments used should be poured into clean single use plastic caps or disposable cups for each client.
5. Single-use disposable supplies and equipment should be used whenever possible.
6. Sterilized needles and similar instruments temporarily set down during tattooing shall be handled and placed so as not to become contaminated.
7. All substances shall be dispensed from containers in a manner to prevent contamination of the unused portion. Single-use tubes, containers, or applicators shall be discarded immediately following the procedure.
8. The use of styptic pencils, alum blocks, or other solid or liquid styptics to check the flow of blood is prohibited.
9. Stencils should be single-use (hctographic or tissue). Do not use acetate or other reusable stencils.
10. Tattoo needles and razors should be used only once and then discarded.
11. Discard needles and other sharps immediately after their use and in front of the client into an impervious needle disposal box.
12. Check gloves periodically for pinhole tears during the procedure.
13. Do not allow tip of pigment bottle to come into direct contact with previously poured pigment in tray or other objects that might contaminate the supply bottle.
14. When rinsing tubes for color change, do not blow excess water out of the tube. Use a tissue to pat it dry.
15. After the tattoo is applied, blot excess blood and body fluid and apply a thick layer of ointment or antibacterial cream to the tattooed area.
16. Apply a nonstick sterile gauze bandage or dressing to the area held in place with skin tape. Do not use plastic wrap. A thin layer of sterile petroleum jelly or antibiotic cream may be applied before covering with the dressing.

## **INFECTION CONTROL PRACTICES SPECIFIC TO PIERCING**

1. Wash hands thoroughly with hand cleanser and water and dry them with single-use, disposable towels before piercing.
2. Use single use impervious gloves on both hands before beginning the piercing.
3. Cleanse the client's skin by washing with an antiseptic solution applied with a clean, single-use, disposable paper or gauze product before and after performing the procedure.
4. All substances shall be dispensed from containers in a manner to prevent contamination of the unused portion. Single-use tubes, containers, or applicators shall be discarded immediately following the procedure.
5. The use of styptic pencils, alum blocks, or other solid or liquid styptics to check the flow of blood is prohibited.
6. Marking should be done after skin cleaning with a sterile instrument. Piercers shall not use a reusable marker or pen for marking the area to be pierced. Marking shall be done with a toothpick and ink well or by some other single use, disposable method.
7. Use an antiseptic (for example, 70% isopropyl alcohol) on the skin in the area to be pierced. Antiseptics should be wiped on in a circular manner using gauze or a swab. To saturate the swab or gauze, use a pump pack or pour antiseptic from its storage container into a disposable cup. The antiseptic must dry on the skin before penetration of the skin can begin. Use water instead of antiseptic around the eye.
8. For oral piercings, have the client rinse for 30 seconds or more with an antimicrobial mouthwash.
9. For oral / facial piercings (lip), the clients should use mouthwash and the facial skin should be cleansed.
10. A sterilized single-use needle should be used for each client and each procedure.
11. Discard needle immediately after use into the sharps container.
12. Single-use disposable items that should be discarded after each client include but are not limited to:
  - A Needles
  - A Corks
  - A Rubber bands
  - A Skin prepping materials
  - A Marking devices
  - A Dental bibs
  - A Tray covers
  - A Sterile gauze
  - A Applicators
13. Reusable items that must be cleaned and disinfected using a high-level disinfectant include:
  - A Calipers used on mucous membranes
  - A Needle pushers
14. Re-usable items that must be cleaned and sterilized after each use include:
  - A Forceps
  - A Insertion tapers
  - A Connectors
  - A Receiving tubes

## A Pliers

15. Sterilize all needles (not already sterilized) and jewelry prior to use.
16. Piercing needles shall not be re-used.
17. Single-use disposable supplies and equipment are used whenever possible.
18. Disposable items used for the piercing procedure should be sterile (for example, rubber bands, cotton swabs, toothpicks, gauze).
19. All jewelry brought in by a client should be considered contaminated. Do not let customers place jewelry on a shop surface. Provide small cups for placement of jewelry brought in by clients.
20. Jewelry should be smooth polished (to avoid skin irritation and ease of cleaning / sterilizing).
21. Jewelry should be made from one of the following: surgical implant grade stainless steel; surgical implant grade titanium; niobium; tantalum; solid 14k or 18k yellow or white gold; platinum; high-density, low-porosity no-toxic plastics; PTFE (inert plastic; Tygon (S-54-HL)); or other materials found to be equally bio-compatible. Before using any of the preceding metals, the piercer should be familiar with each and how they react to different piercing locations.
22. Provide hand-washing facilities and/or hand sanitizers for clients (to decontaminate their own hands).
23. Discard needles and other sharps immediately after their use and in front of the client.
24. Gloves should be changed between skin preparation and the piercing procedure.
25. Flashlight or transdermal illuminators (used to illuminate tissue to avoid piercing blood vessels) should be covered with a fresh plastic sheath before each use. The instrument should be cleaned and disinfected with a low-level disinfectant after each use.
26. Do not use marking pens on more than one client, as they cannot be properly cleaned.
27. Do not dip tooth picks and other object into the ink container. Instead, place a few drops of ink on a clean surface (for example, the inner surface of the sterilization packet wrapper).
28. Forceps should be cleaned and sterilized after use on each client.
29. Needles and piercing devices should be the same gauge or slightly larger than the jewelry to be inserted.
30. If rubber bands are used on clamps, the rubber bands should be removed and disposed before the clamps are cleaned and sterilized.