

# Ear Lobe Piercing

In addition to *General and Operational Requirements*

**\*\*\*Check with Durham Region Health Department prior to purchasing new piercing instruments\*\*\***

## Before the Service:

- Ear piercing instruments shall not be used on any other part of the body except the fleshy part of the ear lobe.
- Inspect the skin. Do not pierce inflamed or infected skin or skin with a rash.
- All supplies and equipment required for piercing are to be assembled and set up immediately prior to starting the procedure.

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

## Requirements:

- Person performing ear piercing must wear single-use, disposable gloves on both hands during procedure. Hand hygiene must be performed before and after glove use.
- Ear piercing instruments without sterile, single-use disposable adapters or cartridges that come in direct contact with the ear during the procedure must be cleaned and sterilized between each client (refer to *Sterilization Information Sheet*).
- Ear piercing instruments must be loaded without touching either the sterile jewellery or the stud-holding sterile, (disposable) devices on the piercing instrument. Ensure that the piercing instrument is designed so that during assembly, there is no direct contact with the sterile jewellery or sterile adaptors.
- All jewellery used for ear piercing must be pre-packaged sterile. Jewellery cannot be sampled or returned. Jewellery must remain sterile until use. Do not spray any sterile item with disinfectant.
- Ear piercing instruments that use sterile adapters or cartridges must be cleaned and then disinfected (intermediate to high level depending on use) between clients – refer to *Cleaning, Disinfection & Sterilization Flowchart*.
- The cleaned and disinfected piercing instrument and all sterile packages must be stored in a sanitary manner.
- Equipment and instruments that cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected between clients are single-use (e.g. plastic adapters, toothpicks, cotton, etc.).

Continued ↪



**Environmental Help Line**  
**905-723-3818 or 1-888-777-9613**  
**durham.ca**

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-888-777-9613.



## Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Services Settings - Information Sheet

- Clean marking materials (e.g. iodine felt tip pen, iodine or gentian violet with toothpick) must be used to mark piercing sites. Follow the marking procedure\* below:
  - clean site to be pierced with approved skin antiseptic
  - mark site
  - let dry
  - clean site again with approved skin antiseptic.

\*Other marking procedures may be considered. Review any other procedure with the Public Health Inspector for approval.
- After each client, all disposable parts must be discarded. Any open packages are no longer sterile and must be discarded. **Any open packages of previously sterile items stored with sterile packages will be seized during inspection.**

## Sterilization

- Refer to the following resources: *Sterilization Information Sheet, Chemical & Physical Monitoring of Sterilizer, Biological Monitoring of Sterilizer, and Sterilization Log Sheet.*
- Provide an approved sterilizer (Refer to *Sterilization Information Sheet*) or pre-packaged, sterile items.
- If pre-packaged, sterile items are provided, records of all information are required for tracking purposes (i.e. proof of sterility, name of company that sterilizes the needles, lot numbers, invoices / receipts, etc.). **Any sterile items without proof of sterility may be seized by the Public Health Inspector at time of inspection.**

## After Care

- Clients must be given verbal and written information regarding piercing aftercare, such as:
  - ✓ Normal bathing and showering are permitted but otherwise keep pierced area dry
  - ✓ Clean hands immediately before touching jewellery
  - ✓ Turning jewellery when wound is not dry
  - ✓ Allow the wound access to air by using loose covering
  - ✓ Discuss the expected healing time of the wound
  - ✓ Describe possible complications and their signs and symptoms
  - ✓ Advice on how to deal with slight redness, pain or swelling
  - ✓ Recommend consultation with a family physician if the problem does not improve within 24 hours
  - ✓ Advise not to remove jewellery from potentially infected piercing, to contact piercer AND seek medical advice



**Environmental Help Line**  
**905-723-3818 or 1-888-777-9613**  
**durham.ca**

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-888-777-9613.

