

## **Body Piercing**

- i. All jewellery used for body piercing must be sterile. If piercing jewellery is made or modified by a piercer prior to use, it may be cleaned manually, although use of an ultrasonic cleaner is preferred, and then packaged and sterilized by an acceptable method (refer to section 5.5.)
- ii. As per section 6.2 I, the site/s to be pierced must first be cleaned with an approved skin antiseptic, then marked with a (iodine) felt tip pen to mark all body sites prior to piercing. 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 (i.e. toothpicks, etc) can be used to mark such areas.
- iii. 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 of in an approved sharps container immediately after use.
- iv. Closed ended receiving tubes must be sterile, single-use and disposable. Open ended receiving tubes can be cleaned with a wire brush and sterilized between uses.
- v. Following each piercing, all non-disposable equipment must be cleaned and then sterilized.
- vi. Clients must be given verbal and written information regarding body piercing aftercare, such as:
  - a) Normal bathing and showering are permitted but otherwise keep the pierced are dry
  - b) Cleaning hands immediately before touching jewellery
  - c) Turning jewellery when wound is not dry
  - d) Allowing access of the wound to air by using a loose covering
  - e) The expected healing time of the wound possible complications and their signs and symptoms

- f) How to deal with slight redness, pain or swelling and recommend consulting a family physician if the problem does not improve within 24 hours, and
- g) Advising not to remove the jewellery from a potentially infected piercing and to contact the piercer and seek medical advice.

**Note: Any antiseptic may become contaminated if not handled using aseptic technique. Recent studies have demonstrated persistent contamination of an aftercare solution of benzalkonium chloride used for cartilage piercing sites. Please note that *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is resistant to this antiseptic.**

**For more information, call**

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Smiths Falls 613-283-2740**

**HealthACTION Line  
at 1-800-660-5853**

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