

## **Ear Lobe Piercing**

Ear piercing instruments shall not be used on any other part of the body except the ear lobes (fleshy part only).

- i. If a needle or dermal punch method is used for piercing the ear lobe refer to Body Piercing (Section 8.4).
- ii. The person performing the ear piercing must wear single-use disposable gloves on both hands during the procedure.
- iii. Ear piercing instruments without disposable adapters or cartridges are not recommended.
- iv. Ear piercing instruments without sterile, single-use disposable plastic adapters or cartridges that come in direct contact with the ear during the piercing procedure must be cleaned and then sterilized between each client use. Refer to Cleaning and Sterilization (Section 5.2 and 5.5) and Tables 1 and 3. Many of the old style instruments (i.e. those that do not have disposable single-use sterile cartridges or plastic adapters or cartridges, but rather a fixed stud adapter and /or a fixed clasp retainer) have plastic components that are not capable of withstanding the sterilization process without incurring damage. **If the gun/instrument cannot be sterilized, it must not be used.**
- v. Ear piercing instruments must be loaded without touching either the sterile jewellery or the stud-holding sterile, (disposable) devices on the gun.
- vi. The piercing instrument equipped with disposable parts must be cleaned and then disinfected with an intermediate to high-level disinfectant after each client. Refer to Tables 1 and 2.
- vii. Jewellery must be supplied prepackaged and sterile. Jewellery cannot be sampled or returned.
- viii. Do not spray sterile earrings with disinfectant solution prior to piercing.

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- ix. As per section 6.2 ii, the ear lobe must first be cleaned with an approved skin antiseptic, then marked with a (iodine) felt tip/marketing pen prior to 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.
- x. After each client, all disposable parts must be discarded. Previously opened packages of jewellery can no longer be considered sterile. Any jewelry stored in opened or damaged packages may no longer be used to pierce the skin.
- xi. Store the piercing instrument in a sanitary manner to prevent contamination. Instruments that are sterilized must be stored in a manner that maintains their sterility (refer to section on sterilization and storage). Avoid touching the piercing instrument unless hands are washed and single-use gloves are worn.
- xii. Clients must be given verbal and written ear piercing aftercare, as in 8.4.1 section vi above.

**For more information, call**

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Smiths Falls 613-283-2740**

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

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