

## **COSMETIC PIERCING (inc. EAR/NOSE PIERCING WITHOUT GUN) DEFINITIONS**

### **Body Piercing**

Body piercing is when a hole is made in the skin and a piece of 'jewellery' is placed within the hole.

### **Beading**

Steel beads or similar objects are inserted under the skin to mould or shape the skin.

### **Microdermal Anchors (single point piercing)**

Single point piercings carried out with ordinary piercing needle that places a post under the skin which a variety of accessories can be screwed into.

## **1. AGE**

- 1.1. Clients must be over the age of 18 for all types of body piercing other than ear, nose, Lip (labaret), eyebrow or navel.
- 1.2. Anyone under the age of 16 who wants ear, nose, lip, eyebrow or navel piercing must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who must sign the appropriate consent forms. The consent form must include full name, address, contact number and relationship to person receiving piercing.

## **2. Challenge 25 Policy**

- 2.1. Any person wishing to receive a licensable treatment will need to provide proof of their age if they look under 25 .
- 2.2. Licencees must advertise this policy so that all clients are made aware that they may be challenged about their age if they look under 25.
- 2.3. Acceptable forms of ID are a photo driving licence, passport or the PASS hologram proof of age card.
- 2.4. Where a challenge is made, it must be recorded and proof of age also noted on the client record card.

## **3. CLIENT CONSULTATION**

- 3.1. A full client consultation must be carried out at the time of a first visit and prior to any treatment. This must include a thorough medical history in relation to the treatment being requested and full explanation of any possible contraindications.

- 3.2. Where any medical conditions exist the client must confirm to the therapist that they have taken advice from their GP regarding the treatment before any treatment can be commenced.

#### **4. VISUAL ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1. An assessment of the condition of the area to be pierced must be carried out prior to commencing treatment. Where necessary notes/diagrams should be made regarding conditions, areas not to be treated.
- 4.2. Piercing must not be carried out on or within 10cms of an infected area of skin, a rash, cut or other wound.

#### **5. RECORD KEEPING**

- 5.1. Records must be kept for every client (including walk-ins/one offs). The records must include details of medical history checks and steps taken to verify the age of the client including their date of birth and the type of identification provided (where appropriate). This record must be signed by either the client/parent/guardian (as appropriate) as a declaration of agreement to proceeding with the treatment having been explained and understanding any associated risks.

#### **6. PERSONAL HYGIENE**

- 6.1. Persons carrying out treatments must ensure that:-
- their hands are kept clean and washed immediately prior to carrying out a treatment,
  - they maintain a high degree of personal cleanliness and wear suitable, clean and appropriate protective clothing,
  - they do not smoke or consume food or drink during the course of a treatment.
- 6.2. Persons shall not administer treatments whilst afflicted by either a known or suspected ailment or being a carrier of a disease likely to be transmitted during treatment.
- 6.3. Persons carrying out treatments shall ensure that any open sores, cuts, boils, broken skin or other open wounds are effectively covered with waterproof impermeable dressings. If such cuts are on the hands gloves shall be worn over the waterproof dressings.

#### **7. PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**

- 7.1. All staff must wear clean clothing when piercing. If clothing becomes soiled it must be changed prior to next client.
- 7.2. Piercers must wear disposable single use vinyl or non-latex gloves whilst carrying

out the treatment. The integrity of the gloves must be checked throughout the treatment. New gloves must be used for each client and/or if there is a break in the treatment and non-sterile equipment is touched.

## 8. CLEANING AND STERILISATION

- 8.1. In addition to the General Licence Conditions for all special treatment premises:-
- 8.2. All surfaces that come into contact with staff equipment or clients must be disinfected daily.
- 8.3. All needles must be single use and disposable.
- 8.4. Any surfaces used during treatments must be disinfected prior to use.
- 8.5. Any treatment chair/ couches must be disinfected after each client.
- 8.6. Any equipment that has been contaminated with blood however small must be cleaned and sterilized or safely disposed of.
- 8.7. Procedures for the decontamination, disinfection and sterilisation of equipment shall be provided at the premises.
- 8.8. Glass bead sterilisers; UV light boxes; hot air ovens and water boilers must not be used for sterilisation purposes.
- 8.9. Where chemicals are used to achieve sterilisation the licensee is responsible for having documented evidence that the chemical used is fit for purpose and is used accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 8.10. Equipment and furniture must be cleaned, disinfected and/or sterilised to an appropriate level depending upon their use. For clarification definitions of cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation are provided below:-

*Cleaning-* Cleaning is a process that removes foreign material (e.g. soil, organic material, micro-organisms) from an object. Detergents such as washing up liquid and multi-purpose cleaners are commonly used for cleaning.

*Disinfection-* Disinfection is a process that reduces the number of pathogenic microorganisms, but not necessarily bacterial spores, from inanimate objects or skin, to a level which is not harmful to health. Commonly used disinfectants include chlorine bleach and products labelled as anti-bacterial.

*Sterilisation-* Sterilisation is a process that destroys all microorganisms including bacterial spores. The only way body art practitioners can achieve this is via steam sterilisation i.e. use of an autoclave. Pressure cookers are not suitable for body art instrument sterilisation as they cannot automatically

monitor the sterilisation process to ensure that all parameters are met. Baby bottle steam sterilisers do not reach sufficient temperatures and therefore are not suitable for body art instrument sterilization. Bench-top sterilisers or transportable sterilisers must conform to the standard BS EN 13060.

## **9. BLOOD/BODILY FLUID SPILLAGE**

9.1. There must be a written procedure for dealing with blood spillages.

9.2. A spillage kit must be available for cleaning up blood or other bodily fluids. The kit must include;

- a) Bucket with a tight fitting lid.
- b) 'Non-sterile', unpowdered latex gloves or vinyl gloves.
- c) Disposable plastic aprons.
- d) Disposable paper towels.
- e) Disposable cloths.
- f) Clinical waste bag.
- g) Small container of general-purpose detergent.
- h) Hypochlorite solution (e.g. Household bleach or Milton) or Sodium Dichloroisocyanurate compound (NaDCC) (e.g. Presept, Sanichlor) – to comply with COSHH 1988. Note that this compound must be stored in a lockable cupboard.
- i) Absorbent powder/granules e.g. Vernagel (absorbent crystals) to soak up the liquid content of the spillage. Alternatively, disposable paper towels can be used to soak up excess fluid.

## **10. SHARPS INJURY**

10.1. There must be a written procedure for dealing with needle/ sharps injuries.

10.2. All staff must be made aware of the procedure. The procedure must be available onsite at all times for audit by Authorised Officer.

## **11. USE OF ANAESTHETICS**

11.1. Only operators who have successfully completed an appropriate course on use of topical anaesthetics will be permitted to use them. Evidence of the qualification must be available onsite. The use of anaesthetic injections is prohibited.

## **12. PIERCERS**

12.1. Only suitably qualified persons shall carry out piercing. Until such time as an externally verified body piercing qualification is offered, all piercers will be required to demonstrate knowledge of infection control to the satisfaction of the Authorised Officer.

12.2. Only persons listed on premises licence are permitted to carry out piercings.

### **13. AFTERCARE**

**13.1.** Appropriate aftercare advice must be provided following each treatment. This must include information on actions to take if any adverse conditions occur. Where possible this should be given orally and in written form for the client to take away.

### **14. JEWELLERY**

14.1. All jewellery which may come into contact with broken skin or mucosa membranes must be sterile.

14.2. All jewellery must be of a suitable grade e.g. surgical stainless steel, solid 14K or 18K gold, niobium, titanium, platinum, or dense low porosity plastic. This is to minimise the risk of allergic reaction, harbouring of bacteria or adhesion to newly formed skin. Grade 316 stainless steel does not comply with the Dangerous Substances and Preparations (Nickel) (Safety) Regulations 2000) and is not to be used.

#### **14.3. CIEH TOOLKIT**

14.4. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in conjunction with Public Health England and the Tattoo and Piercing Industry Union have issued a Toolkit detailing safe practice with regard to hygienically undertaking tattoos and skin piercing. Practitioners must adhere to the requirements and recommendation contained within this document. The document can be accessed via the CIEH webpage at [http://www.cieh.org/policy/Tattooing\\_and\\_body\\_piercing\\_guidance\\_toolkit.html](http://www.cieh.org/policy/Tattooing_and_body_piercing_guidance_toolkit.html)

### **NOTES**

#### **Hepatitis B Vaccinations**

There are no vaccine for Hepatitis C or HIV therefore robust infection control practices must be in place at all times. However, it is also strongly recommended that all body piercers receive a full course of Hepatitis B vaccine.