



Non-higher Risk Personal Appearance Services Closed Ear and Nose Piercing Information Sheet

This fact sheet provides information for operators about the health and hygiene requirements of the Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003 and the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2004.

1. INTRODUCTION

Closed ear and nose piercing involves piercing a person's ear or nose with a closed piercing instrument that-

- Does not come into contact with the person's skin or mucous membrane; and
- Is fitted with a sterilised single-use disposable cartridge containing sterilised jewellery and fittings

Under the *Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003*, closed ear and nose piercing are classified as a non-higher risk personal appearance services. This means that these activities are not required to be licensed with Council; however you still have an obligation to notify local government if you start a new business if you carry out these activities. Although you are not required to be licensed to operate, you must still take all reasonable precautions to minimise the risk of infection to clients as a result of procedures carried out by your business.

2. PREMISES

All beauty therapists' premises should be fitted out with the following:

- Adequate hand washing facilities
- Adequate equipment washing facilities
- Floors, walls, ceilings, benches and cupboard surfaces should be finished in materials suitable to enable easy cleaning

3. PERSONAL HYGIENE

Hand washing is generally considered to be the most important measure in preventing the spread of infection. Hand washing removes significant numbers of infectious agents when it is done properly. Piercers should wash their hands:

- Before and after each client
- Before putting on and after removing gloves
- After contact with instruments that penetrate the skin
- After contact with blood or other body substances
- After contact with used instruments or jewellery
- After smoking, eating or going to the toilet
- Whenever hands are visibly soiled
- In any other circumstances when infection risks are apparent

Operators should not smoke, eat or drink while attending to a client. Clean, sterile gloves should be worn when handling sterile instruments or jewellery. New gloves should be used for each client.

4. EQUIPMENT

- Ensure that the closed piercing instrument is fitted with a sterilised single-use disposable cartridge containing assembled sterilised jewellery and fittings. It should be noted that some instruments



need the jewellery stud and clasp to be directly fitted to the instrument. This allows the cartridge to be discarded.

- Use an instrument for piercing ears, only for piercing ears and not for piercing any other part of the body
- Use an instrument for piercing noses, only for piercing noses and not for piercing any other part of the body
- Clean closed piercing instruments as per Guidelines 1.6.1 of the Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2004
- Handle, store and use all materials to a client in a way that minimises contamination
- Ensure that equipment is kept clean at all times

5. PROCEDURES

- Use only sterile jewellery on clients
- Mark the site to be pierced before cleaning the site
- Clean each client's skin as per Guideline 4.1
- Use closed piercing instruments only for the purpose the manufacturer has instructed in writing. Keep the manufacturer's written instruction instructions at the premises where the instrument is used
- Avoid bringing the closed piercing instrument into contact with the person's skin or mucous membrane
- Do not re-use jewellery or fittings on another person unless it has first been sterilised as per Guideline 5

6. POST-TREATMENT

After ear piercing:

- Place used single-use disposable items in a waste container
- Clean the gun with detergent and water to remove any contaminants before re-use on another client
- Sterilise re-usable equipment in accordance with Infection Control Guidelines for Personal Appearance Services 2004
- Clean the immediate working area in which the procedure was performed
- Store ear piercing guns in a clean and hygienic manner
- Provide your client with after-care information to avoid infection, including:
 - Cleaning of site and jewellery
 - Infections and what to look for
 - General care instructions
 - Healing times

