

Record Keeping

Record keeping protects the interests of both operator and client and should include the following items:

- Date of procedure
- The client's name and contact address
- Treatment plan, including actual treatment to be carried out and area to be treated
- A record of the type of body jewellery used, if applicable. If the operator did not supply jewellery, then accurate details of chain of supply should be established.
- **Medical history**, to consider:
 - Haemophilia
 - Heart disease**
 - High/low blood pressure
 - Medication
 - Epilepsy
 - Diabetes
 - Allergies*
 - Chronic skin conditions (e.g. eczema & psoriasis)
 - Nursing mothers (e.g. pregnant or breast feeding)
- Other contra indications, e.g. skin infections close to area to be treated
- After care advice (written and verbal)
- Photographic evidence (before and after treatment)
- Associated hazards and risks e.g. symptoms to look out for

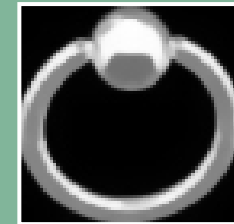
NB: * It may be appropriate to patch test skin products if indicated. Some operators will recommend this routinely.

** Note the advice from The British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy.

If there is a history of any relevant medical conditions, the client should be advised to consult their GP for advice on their suitability for treatment.

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SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY



Tattooing and Skin Piercing Activities



Lip piercing leads to fatality in Sheffield

“Tattooist/Piercer given 2 years conditional discharge and ordered to pay £9,000 costs”

Following the death of a teenager in Sheffield in 2002 which occurred after a lip-piercing all piercer/ tattooists must ensure that they adequately discuss with clients, before treatment, whether they suffer from specified medical conditions and record these on an appropriate form. The health and safety of your clients and anyone else that may be affected as a result of the business undertaking, is your responsibility!



WARNING!

TATTOOING AND SKIN PIERCING ACTIVITIES

Can result in a number of serious infections and blood-borne viruses such as Septicaemia, Hepatitis and HIV

When our Inspectors call to see YOU as part of their investigations they will want to know what measures you have in place to safeguard the health & safety of your customers and employees; from personal hygiene to after-care advice.

Questions will be asked and answers sought!



Legal Requirements

The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 places a legal duty on you to protect yourself, your employees and your customers from risks to their health and safety. If you fail to comply with the law it could render you liable to a fine of up to £20,000 at a magistrate's court or an unlimited fine in a Crown Court. Any customers injured or suffering an infection caused by your actions can take civil action against you.

Consent

Persons must be 18 years or over to receive a tattoo treatment. Providing a tattooing service to persons under this age is an offence under the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969.

There is no legal age of consent for body piercing. However if you suspect a person is under 16 years of age, piercing should not be performed without the consent and attendance of a parent or guardian.

It is advisable to refuse customers who you believe may be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, as they may not be fully able to understand the consequences of their actions.

The teenager who died suffered from a serious heart condition. People with heart disease or heart conditions are at much greater risk of developing serious infections from piercing/tattooing. Infectious bacterial agents can colonise on defective heart valves etc. leading to systemic poisoning and death.

Advice from the British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy states “anyone who had previous heart surgery or been diagnosed with a heart condition should consult their doctor before having a piercing involving a mucous membrane (nose, lip, tongue or genitals) as there may be a risk of potentially serious infection”.

It is important therefore that a Piercer/Tattooist identifies if there is a history of relevant medical conditions and advises the client to consult their GP before the treatment.

A point to note is that people with serious heart defects may not have previously been warned about the dangers of piercing.