Body Art Practitioner’s Guide - Abridged
Alameda County Department of Environmental Health
Solid/Medical Waste Management and Body Art Programs
1131 Harbor Bay Parkway Alameda, California 94502
https://deh.acgov.org/index.page | Phone: (510) 567-6790

Body Art (Body Piercings) Procedure:

Part 1: Informed Consent and Procedure Overview
Before the procedure, provide an informed consent form to your client to read and sign.

Part 2: Setup for Procedure
Before the procedure, complete the following steps:

1. Wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Dry hands with disposable paper towel.
2. Put on a clean apron, bib, or lap pad over clean, dry clothing.
3. Put on personal protective equipment that is appropriate for the task.
4. Put on disposable gloves. Gloves shall be worn throughout the procedure.
5. Disinfect workstation with EPA registered List-D disinfectant. Follow contact time as required by the label.
6. Prepare workstation with equipment:
   a. Position supplies above the procedure height to avoid mist contamination.
   b. Prepare items:
      i. Single-use and disposable items:
         1. Single-use needle
         2. Anti-septic solution, antimicrobial, or microbicide
         3. Sterilized piercing in sterilized packaging
         4. Topical anesthetic – non-prescription
         5. Single-use guiding and receiving tools
      ii. Sterilized reusable items in sterilized packaging:
         1. Piercing tool
         2. Clamp
         3. Guiding and receiving tools
7. Remove contaminated gloves.
8. Wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Dry hands with disposable paper towel.
Part 3: Perform Body Art Procedure
1. Wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Dry hands with disposable paper towel.
2. Put on disposable gloves. Gloves shall be worn throughout the procedure. If gloves are contaminated by any surface or object other than the client’s skin or material used for the procedure:
   a. Pause the procedure.
   b. Remove contaminated gloves.
   c. Wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Dry hands with disposable paper towel.
   d. Put on new gloves.
3. Right before performing the procedure, apply antiseptic solution, antimicrobial, or microbicide to the client’s skin.
4. Apply topical anesthetic (if necessary or applicable).
5. Apply piercing.
6. Apply aftercare products to skin (if necessary or applicable).

Part 4: Post Procedure and Breakdown
1. Provide post procedure care instructions to client.
2. Place all used or discarded sharps waste into the sharps waste container.
3. If applicable, prepare reusable equipment for post procedure cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization by placing equipment in a container with appropriate cleaning/disinfecting solution prior to placement in cleaning/disinfection/sterilization equipment.
4. Throw away all single-use disposable items (except for sharps waste) in the waste container.
5. Remove contaminated gloves.
6. Wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Dry hands with disposable paper towel.
7. Put on new gloves.
8. Disinfect workstation with EPA registered List-D disinfectant. Also disinfect client chair, arm rests and workstation lighting equipment. Follow contact time as required by the label.
9. Remove contaminated gloves.
10. Wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Dry hands with disposable paper towel.
Part 5: Cleaning and Sterilization

This section is only applicable to facilities approved to conduct on-site sterilization.

1. Soak equipment in a cleaning solution.
2. Scrub equipment to remove debris.
3. Rinse and inspect equipment. Soak and scrub for additional time if needed.
4. Process equipment through an ultrasonic cleaner. Follow directions as required by the manufacturer.
5. Rinse equipment and let dry. Protect drying equipment from contamination.
6. Once dry, place equipment into sterilization packaging that contain a sterilizer/process indicator.

7. Label the outside of the packaging with:
   a. Name of instrument if not easily identifiable.
   b. Date sterilized.
   c. Initials of the person operating the sterilizing equipment.

8. Load steam sterilization for medical instruments sterilizer with equipment in sterilization packaging. Do not overload sterilizer. Adequate space between packages shall be maintained during sterilization. Place packaging vertically if sterilizing multiple packages.

9. Place a Class V integrator in the sterilizer with the equipment.
10. Sterilize the equipment as directed by the manufacturer.
11. Write on the sterilization log the following information:
    a. Date of the load.
    b. The exposure time and temperature.
    c. The results of the Class V integrator.
    d. The items sterilized if multiple sterilizations occur on the same date.

12. If the Class V integrator shows a failing result:
    a. Sterilize equipment an additional time with a new Class V integrator.
    b. Only equipment sterilized with a Class V integrator that shows a passing result may be used.
    c. If the Class V integrator shows another failing result:
       i. Assume all equipment put in the sterilizer is still contaminated and shall not be used.
       ii. Contact the sterilizer equipment repair service to service the sterilizer.
       iii. Use a different sterilizer or utilize only pre-sterilized single-use disposable equipment in the meantime.

13. Keep all sterilized equipment in the sealed packaging until utilized for a procedure. Protect sterilized equipment from contamination.