

PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION
222 UPPER STREET, LONDON N1 1XR
STANDARD CONDITIONS
FOR BODY PIERCING AND TATTOOING
London Local Authorities Act 1991-2000

These conditions are to be read in conjunction with the Standard Conditions for Special Treatment Premises. They apply to all licensed body piercers and tattooists in Islington. Other conditions may be added to licences if circumstances warrant this.

GENERAL

1. A body piercer or tattooist must obtain a certificate from a Registered Medical Practitioner to show that he or she has been tested for Hepatitis B Antigens and Antibodies and has satisfactorily completed a Hepatitis B vaccination course. The certificate shall be submitted to the Public Protection Division. It is the responsibility of the holder of the Special Treatment Premises Licence to ensure that all staff are immunised against Hep B.
2. Under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, license holders, as employers, are required to ensure that they provide all information, instruction, training and supervision necessary "so far as is reasonably practicable" to protect the health and safety of their employees. However, there are currently no recognised training courses; it is the duty of employers to provide adequate on-the-job training for employees. Proposed introductions:
 - a) Every applicant has worked for at least 1 year as a professional within licensed premises and can provide references to it.
 - b) All license holder are aware they, and every operator working under their licence, must be capable of demonstrating that they have sufficient knowledge, skills, training and experience commensurate with the procedures they are carrying out.
 - c) All operators must hold a current first aid certificate to foundation level.
 - d) Operators should be familiar with the preparation of risk assessments (or at least written methods statements acknowledging the risks involved in their business) for the work undertaken.

This should be recommended as part of ongoing training for apprentices/trainees.
3. A body piercer or tattooist must have undertaken an approved training course in first aid, such as the one-day "Basic First Aid" course. Such training courses are offered by the British Red Cross (00870 170 9222) or the St John Ambulance (020 7258 3456). There are other training organisations which advertise in Yellow Pages but please check with the Council whether a particular organisation is approved.
4. Branding is absolutely prohibited in Special Treatment Premises.



ISLINGTON

5. Body piercing, except nose and ear piercing, shall not be done to persons under the age of 18 years without prior written consent of that person's parent or guardian.
6. No piercing, except for nose and ear piercing, shall be done to persons under the age of 16 years. Nose and/or ear piercing shall only be done to persons under the age of 16 years with the prior written consent of the person's parent or guardian, unless the person is accompanied by a parent or guardian and they provide written consent at the time of piercing.
7. Notices giving the age restrictions on types of piercing should be prominently displayed in the premises.
8. The Licensee is advised that the Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985 should be considered when requests for the piercing of female genitalia are made. Anything which goes beyond simple piercing may amount to mutilation and may therefore be prohibited by the Act.
9. The Licensee is advised that under the Tattooing of Minors Act 1969 it is an offence for any person, other than a medical practitioner or a person working under his direction, to tattoo a person under the age of 18 years.
10. The person performing the piercing/tattoo or the person having the piercing or tattoo shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Operators must not eat or drink during procedures.
11. It is illegal to smoke anywhere on the premises
12. Piercing or tattooing shall be done in a room/area which cannot be viewed by members of the public outside the premises or by visitors to the premises.
13. A licensed waste disposal contractor must be employed to collect and dispose of skin piercing needles (sharps) and paper towels, gauze, swabs, gloves etc., which could be contaminated with blood/body fluids from the premises.
 - a) Sharps must be disposed of in an approved yellow plastic box which conforms to BS7320 1990 and/or be UN type approved.
 - b) The other waste should be placed in suitable, clearly marked plastic sacks provided or approved by the contractor for the removal of clinical waste.
14. Sharps containers must not be overfilled and should be removed when three quarters full, sealed and labelled. They must not be placed in other trade waste sacks
15. Unless only sterile single-use equipment is used, an autoclave must be used to sterilise piercing and/or tattooing equipment. Pre cleaning should be carried out prior to sterilisation. The Licensee must ensure that the autoclave is safe, working efficiently and properly maintained.
 - a) All autoclaves should be operated in line with the manufacturers instructions and only loads for which the steriliser is designed should be processed through the system.
 - b) The Licensee must ensure that the autoclave is subject to a thorough examination by a competent person at a frequency prescribed by them in writing. Records of the thorough examination must be kept on the premises. The licence holder must keep a maintenance log for the autoclave.

16. Non-wrapped items processed in an autoclave should be used direct from the autoclave and/or sterilised items are to be used within 3 hours or re-sterilisation is required.
17. If the autoclave is not equipped with a post sterilisation drying phase non-wrapped equipment and/or packages must not be removed damp from and autoclave and subsequently dried.
18. Dried non-wrapped equipment which has been subject to complete drying within the autoclave, before the door is opened, can be stored in a dry, airtight disinfected container.
19. Injections of local anaesthetic may only be administered by a medical practitioner registered by the General Medical Council. Ethyl chloride must not be used.
20. Notices should be prominently displayed on the premises informing clients of the possible risks associated with piercing and tattooing to include, where appropriate:
 - a) Blood poisoning, e.g., septicaemia;
 - b) Localised severe swelling and trauma at and around the piercing site;
 - c) Scarring;
 - d) Localised infection at the piercing/tattoo site;
 - e) Migration and possibly rejection of jewellery;
 - f) Localised infections, e.g., sepsis or urethritis;
 - g) Allergic reactions to or potential embedding of jewellery;
 - h) Fainting;
 - i) Discomfort while healing
 - j) Blood loss
 - k) Possible allergic reaction to inks
21. The licensee and staff doing piercing/tattooing should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the possible contra-indications to the treatment and should discuss with the client (or parent or guardian if the client is under 16 years of age) his or her medical history to include the following conditions:
 - a) Heart disease, angina, pacemaker
 - b) Cellulitis
 - c) Skin conditions, e.g. eczema, psoriasis, dermatitis
 - d) Impetigo
 - e) Allergic responses to latex, anaesthetics, adhesive plasters, food stuffs and jewellery metals such as nickel
 - f) Haemorrhaging/haemophilia
 - g) Fainting
 - h) Seizures e.g. epilepsy
 - i) Diabetes
 - j) Blood borne viruses, e.g. HIV, Hepatitis B, C
 - k) Conditions that compromise the immune system

22. If the client suffers or has suffered from any of the above conditions no piercing/tattooing shall be carried out unless written authorisation is obtained from a medical practitioner registered by the General Medical Council.
23. A record must be kept for all customers indicating their name, address, date and type of piercing. It is recommended the records are kept for three years from the date of piercing, written consent from a parent or guardian shall also be kept.
24. A fully stocked basic first aid kit must be kept on the premises.

BODY PIERCING

25. Unless single-use equipment is used all instruments used for piercing and any jewellery inserted after piercing must be sterilised in an autoclave before use. For body piercing jewellery must be 14ct or 18ct gold, niobium, titanium and platinum. Incorrect gauges and surgical steel not recommended as a suitable material for body piercing jewellery.
26. A “no touch” technique, for example, using forceps, should be used as much as possible to reduce the risk of skin and soft tissue infections. Disposable rubber gloves must be worn.
27. Piercing guns designed for ear piercing must only be used on the outer perimeter and lobe of the ear, unless the instrument clearly states otherwise. It should be a disposable one such as the Coren (Newton Laboratories), the Medisept (Studex Manufacturing UK Ltd.) or the Blomdahl (Poly [UK] Ltd.). Butterfly clips must not be used on noses. Ear piercing instruments must be cleaned between uses, on each client, by thoroughly wiping down with an approved disinfectant immediately e.g. 70% alcohol.
28. Pre-packed, pre-sterilised, disposable hollow piercing needles shall be used followed by jewellery of the same diameter as the needle.
29. If the skin is to be marked for piercing it should be done prior to the cleansing of the skin. The marking should be done with a fine indelible pen (preferably gentian violet).
30. The skin in the area of the piercing must be intact. The skin shall be cleansed with a suitable disinfectant such as 70% ethanol or isopropyl alcohol swabs.
31. The piercer must ensure a clean operating field by means of disposable paper sheets.
 - a) Each operator is to maintain an acceptable standard of personal cleanliness at all times. Operators hands should be washed with liquid soap and hot water and dried with disposable paper towel. Single use disposable rubber gloves are to be worn for each client and changed when they come into contact with non-sterile surfaces.
32. An appropriate surface local anaesthetic may be applied to the area to be pierced using a clean disposable applicator, for example, a piece of sterile gauze for each application. Anaesthetics (creams, sprays) should only be used for the purpose intended by the manufacturer and for which they are licensed in the UK.
 - a) Operators must advise clients that an anaesthetic will be used and, in following the information provided by the manufacturer, discuss any potential allergy or contraindication with the client.

33. To minimise the risk of fainting, the client should be in a reclined position when piercing is carried out, except for tongue piercing as there is a risk of swallowing jewellery or the tongue itself.
34. The skin to be pierced should be steadied, if practicable, with sterile forceps or with gloved fingers or against a sterilised thimble. The needle should be held as far away from the tip as possible whilst still allowing good control of the tip of the needle. The jewellery should be pushed through following in the same direction as the needle.
35. Prior to piercing the tongue, cheek or lip the client shall gargle and rinse the mouth with antiseptic mouth wash.
36. No attempt shall be made to increase the size of a piercing until it has completely healed.
37. All clients shall be given verbal and written information about the aftercare of the piercing. A sample of the written advice shall be sent to the Public Protection Division.

TATTOOING

38. Each operator is to maintain an acceptable standard of personal cleanliness at times. Operators' hands should be washed with liquid soap and hot water and dried with disposable paper towel. Single use disposable rubber gloves are to be worn for each client and changed when they come into contact with non-sterile surfaces.
39. Tattooing should never be carried out within six inches of an infected area of skin or skin with an irritation.
40. The skin to be tattooed should be wiped over with a fresh pre-packed spirit swab. A single use disposable razor is to be used on each client.
41. The tubes, i.e., the holders for the stainless steel needle bars, must also be sterilised after each customer.
42. Single use, sterile disposable needles should be used. After use these must be "burned off" by flaming from the point to the soldered junction and discarded into a sharps container for disposal.
43. Re-usable needle bars must be ultrasonically cleaned and sterilised after each use.
44. Once a needle has been used on a customer it must not be returned to the tube - only unused (sterilised) needles may be placed in the tubes.
45. Needles must not be tested on the tattooist's skin.
46. Sterile forceps must be used for handling sterile needles and bars. These must be re-sterilised with each new batch of needles.
47. Capsule holders and forceps must be sterilised between clients.
48. Holding tubes for motors must be sterilised between clients.
49. Any non-disposable equipment that is liable to come into contact with blood or body fluids and cannot be sterilised, e.g. tattoo motors, should be adequately covered (where possible) to protect from such contact and should be thoroughly cleaned between clients e.g. 70% alcohol solution.
50. Materials used to cover equipment must be disposed of after every client.

51. Elastic bands used to secure the tattooing machine must be replaced after every client.
52. Single-use stencils are to be used on individual clients.
53. Fresh pigments in disposable sterile containers must be used for each client.
54. The pigment capsules must be disposed of after each client.
55. Where Vaseline is used for procedures, single-use packs should be used. Where this is not possible an appropriate amount of Vaseline must be dispensed, using a single-use implement, into a single-use pot/tray for every client.
56. Disposable wooden or plastic spatulas must be used to smear the Vaseline on the skin. Spatulas must only be used on one client and then discarded.
57. All clients shall be given verbal and written information about the aftercare of the tattoo. (A sample of the written advice shall be sent to the Public Protection Division.)