



Wyre Forest District Council

PLANNING, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

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GUIDANCE FOR COSMETIC SKIN PIERCING, SPECIAL TREATMENT, TATTOOING, BODY PIERCING

May 2008

1. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1.1 Wyre Forest District Council has adopted the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 allowing the Council to make bye-laws. These bye-laws are attached in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 As an operator of a licensable activity listed under these bye-laws namely, piercing, tattooing, electrolysis, acupuncture etc. you must make application to the local authority to register as a piercer, tattooist etc.
- 1.3 Further details can be obtained from Wyre Forest District Council, Licensing Section, telephone 01562 732928 or visit the website www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk.

2. THE HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ETC, ACT 1974

- 2.1 This Act places a duty on every employer and self employed person to conduct their undertakings in such a way as to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable that persons not in their employment, i.e. clients and staff are protected from harm and danger.
- 2.2 Further information on health and Safety can be obtained from Wyre Forest District Council, Health and Safety Section, telephone 01562 732928 or visit the website www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk.

3. TATTOOING OF MINORS ACT 1969

- 3.1 This Act prohibits the permanent tattooing of anyone in Great Britain under the age of 18 years.
- 3.2 Further information can be obtained from:

www.hse.gov.uk	- The Health and Safety Executive
www.doh.gov.uk	- The Department of Health
www.nhs.uk	- The National Health Service
www.tattoo.co.uk	- British Tattoo Artists Federation
www.hpa.org.uk	- Health Protection Agency
www.environment-agency.gov.uk	- Environment Agency

- 3.3 Wyre Forest District Council would like to acknowledge the assistance of the Health and Safety Laboratory Service, The West Midlands West Health Protection Agency and Graham Martin from Holier Than Thou Ltd.

4. PREMISES LAYOUT

- 4.1 Premises where skin piercing, tattooing etc, is carried out must be in a good state of repair.
- 4.2 All walls, floors and surfaces should be smooth, washable and durable.
- 4.3 If there is no separate sterilisation room then two distinct areas should be designated within the treatment area – clean and dirty area. Best practice would have a separate area/room altogether as a dirty area to allow the treatment area to remain as clean and as safe as possible.
- 4.4 The dirty area of the premises should be equipped with a general purpose sink with a constant supply of hot and cold running water for cleaning equipment prior to ultrasonic cleaning and autoclaving.
- 4.5 The treatment area must be equipped with a wash hand basin preferably with non-hand operated taps and a constant supply of running hot and cold or mixer taps.
- 4.6 The area should be equipped with a soap dispenser and a paper towel dispenser.
- 4.7 The treatment area must have a pedal operated bin marked for clinical waste and a sharps container for disposal of sharps and needles etc.
- 4.8 The chair/bench etc used for the client should be washable and completely covered with disposable paper sheets – a new sheet should be used for each client and the chair should be cleaned down after each client and thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day and between clients. A hard surface cleaner like Trigene should be used to clean all surfaces in the treatment room.

5. REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATOR AND EQUIPMENT

- 5.1 As an operator carrying out a licensable activity under The Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 you should ensure that you maintain high standards at all times to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- 5.2 You should maintain an acceptable standard of personal cleanliness, by wearing clean washable clothing – a fresh plastic disposable apron should be worn for each client. Operators must wash their hands at a wash hand basin, which is for the sole use of hand washing for treatments. Hands must be washed before commencing and after completing each procedure, and if hands become contaminated with body fluids, after handling money and before and after eating or drinking.

- 5.3 Operators should wear disposable non latex gloves whilst carrying out any licensable activity. Gloves must be changed and replaced with a fresh pair;
- For every client
 - Prior to setting up any equipment
 - If the operator is required to handle anything that may post a risk of contamination
 - Before touching sterile equipment
 - At any time during a procedure if gloves become punctured
 - If the operator moves away from the clean area
 - At regular intervals during long procedures
 - Glove should be disposed of as clinical waste

6. TRAINING

- 6.1 Whilst there is currently no formal training course that exists for tattooing or body piercing, it is the responsibility of the operator to demonstrate adequate knowledge and experience. Any employees of your establishment must have received adequate information, instruction and training and supervision to safeguard so far as is reasonably practicable to protect their health and safety.
- 6.2 Until such time as an accredited course becomes available it is recommended that:
- Every operator has worked for at least 1 year as a professional within a licensed premises and can provide references to prove this.
 - References should be checked and every applicant should be able to provide a reasonable cross section of experience.
 - Operators should be able to demonstrate knowledge of general infection control and sterilisation procedures.
 - Operators must be able to demonstrate cleaning procedures and the operation and use of ultrasonic baths and sterilisation equipment.
 - Operators carrying out invasive treatment should hold a current first aid certificate to foundation level.

7. EQUIPMENT

- 7.1 Single use equipment should be used wherever possible. On no account can single use equipment be re-used.
- 7.2 Any invasive procedure carries with it an associated risk of infection. All cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation of equipment should be carried out in line with advice provided within Hela Local authority Circular 76/2 (April 2005).

8. CLEANING

- 8.1 Cleaning of equipment prior to disinfection or sterilisation is of the utmost importance, as failure to remove physical contamination from an item may inhibit any subsequent sterilisation procedure.
- 8.2 Equipment should be rinsed off using warm soapy water to remove heavy contamination then the equipment should undergo Ultrasonic Cleaning.
- 8.3 Ultrasonic Cleaning is a recognised form of cleaning which uses sound waves propagate through a liquid at high frequencies to move debris or contamination.
- 8.4 Ultrasonic Cleaning should always be carried out following the manufacturers instructions:
 - Baths should be clean and dry prior to their use
 - Baths should never be operated without a lid in place as the aerosols formed have the potential to contaminate the air around the bath
 - Only recommended cleaning agents should be used
 - Instruments should always be placed in the basket, rack or tray provided with the bath
 - Enough cleaning fluid should be used to fully immerse the equipment
 - Baths should be tested regularly following manufacturers' instructions. It is good practice to retain a log of testing carried out

9. STERILISATION

- 9.1 Equipment that is being reused and comes into contact with the body or could cause contamination must be sterilised.
- 9.2 Steam sterilisation process requires direct contact between the material being sterilised and pure dry saturated steam at a specific temperature for a specific length of time.

Sterilising Temperature Range (°C)		Approximate pressure (bar)	Minimum Hold Time (mins)
Minimum	Maximum		
134	137	2.25	3
126	129	1.50	10
121	124	1.15	15

- 9.3 Steam sterilisation can only be carried out on equipment that is not hollow, not tubular not porous and not packaged.

Equipment that is wrapped, hollow, tubular porous etc require the use of pre-sterilisation vacuum steam autoclaves.

10. MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF AUTOCLAVES

- 10.1 All autoclaves should be operated in line with the manufacturers instructions and only loads for which the steriliser is intended should be processed in the system.

- 10.2 As an operator you must demonstrate:

- That all commissioning and validation tests and checks are carried out
- Routine monitoring of every sterilisation cycle
- Actions taken to correct a system in the event of a cycle fail
- Results of all testing
- Measurements of time and temperature should be carried out at the start of each cycle, at the end of the maximum holding time and at the end of the cycle
- The door seal should be tested at least weekly for distortion or wear
- The door safety devices and pressure devices should be tested at least weekly
- Records of all maintenance, repairs or modifications
- The written scheme of examination as required under The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000
- Records of inspection under the written scheme of examination
- Certificate of insurance for the autoclave
- Records of training of all operators

- 10.3 Indicator paper can be used to demonstrate that the specified time and temperature have been achieved for sterilisation, in line with manufacturers guidance.

- 10.4 Emulating indicators confirming to ISO 11/40 part 1 are designed to react to all critical parameters of a specified sterilisation cycle.

10.5 Sterilisation indicators are a quality control measure and not a substitute for routine period testing, validation and correct maintenance of a steriliser.

11. AFTERCARE ADVICE

11.1 Operators should be trained to give comprehensive aftercare advice. It is prudent for the operator to offer advice before the procedure, during and after the procedure. You should provide written aftercare advice to reinforce verbal advice given at the time of the treatment.

11.2 A good standard of personal hygiene will generally assist in reducing the risk of wound infection. Personal hygiene should avoid complete submersion in water for prolonged periods. An example of aftercare information can be found in Appendix 2 with acknowledgement to safe waste disposal. TPI and Holier Than Thou Ltd.

11.3 Waste from tattooing and piercing procedures is clinical waste. As an operator you must engage the services of a contractor licensed under the Waste Management Licensing Regulation 1994.

12. MEDICAL HISTORY AND BODY PIERCING CONSENT FORM

12.1 It is essential that you assess the client for suitability of a procedure prior to carrying out the piercing, tattooing etc. There have been examples of client's dying following a procedure due to underlying health conditions if in doubt do not carry out the procedure.

12.2 An example of a consent form can be found in Appendix 3 with acknowledgement to TPI and Holier Than Thou Ltd

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Wyre Forest District Council

Bye-laws

**Made under Section 15(7) of the
Local Government (Miscellaneous
Provisions) Act 1982 relating to the
business of Tattooing**

1. Interpretation:
 - a. In these byelaws, unless the context otherwise requires -
“The Act” means the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982;
“Client” means any person undergoing treatment;
“Operator” means any person giving treatment;
“Premises” means any premises registered under Part VIII of the Act;
“Proprietor” means any person registered under Part VIII of the Act;
“Treatment” means any operation in effecting tattooing;
“The treatment area” means any part of the premises where treatment is given to clients.
 - b. The interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of these byelaws as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.
2. For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of premises and fittings therein a proprietor shall ensure that -
 - a. All internal walls, doors, windows, partitions, floors and floor coverings, and ceilings are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively;
 - b. The treatment area is used solely for giving treatment;
 - c. The floor of the treatment area is provided with a smooth impervious surface;
 - d. All waste materials, and other litters, arising from the treatment, is placed in suitable covered receptacles, which are washable and leakproof, or use a

leakproof liner bag. The receptacles shall be emptied, or the bags changed, at least once every working day, or more frequently as necessary, and the material disposed of safely. Where liners are not used, the receptacles shall then be cleaned.

- e. All needles used in treatment are placed after use in separate covered and leakproof re-usable boxes, or disposable needle boxes designed for the purpose. Where re-usable boxes are used they shall be emptied at least once every working day or more frequently as necessary, and the contents disposed of safely or sterilised for re-use, as appropriate. The box shall then be sterilised. Where needle boxes are used they shall be disposed of safely at suitable intervals;
- f. All furniture and fittings in the premises are kept clean and in such good repair as to enable them to be cleaned effectively;
- g. All tables, couches and seats used by clients in the treatment area, and any surface on which the items specified in 3b below are placed immediately prior to treatment, have a smooth impervious surface which is wiped down with a suitable disinfectant between the treatment of different clients, and thoroughly cleaned at the end of each working day;
- h. Where tables and couches are used, they shall be covered by a disposable paper sheet which is changed for each client;
- i. A notice or notices reading "No Smoking", are prominently displayed within the treatment area.

3. For the purpose of securing the cleansing and, so far as is appropriate, the sterilisation of instruments, materials and equipment used in connection with the treatment -

- a. An operator shall ensure that, before use in connection with treatment, any gown, wrap or other protective clothing, paper or other covering, towel, cloth or other such articles used in the treatment -
 - i is clean and in good repair, and, so far as is appropriate, is sterile;
 - ii has not previously been used in connection with any other client unless it consists of a material which can be and has been adequately cleaned and, so far as it is appropriate, sterilized.
- b. An operator shall ensure that -
 - i any needle, metal instrument, or other item or equipment, used in treatment or for handling instruments and needles used in treatment, is in a sterile condition and kept sterile until it is used;
 - ii all dyes used for tattooing are bacteriological clean and inert;

iii the containers used to hold the dyes for each customer are either disposed of at the end of each session of treatment, or sterilized before re-use;

c. A proprietor shall provide -

- i adequate facilities and equipment for the purpose of sterilisation (unless pre-sterilised items are used) and of cleansing, as required in pursuance of these bye-laws;
- ii sufficient and safe gas points and/or electrical socket outlets to enable compliance with these bye-laws;
- iii an adequate constant supply of clean hot and cold water readily available at all times on the premises;
- iv adequate storage for items mentioned in byelaw 3 a and b above, so that those items are properly stored in a clean and suitable place so as to avoid, as far as possible, the risk of contamination.

4. For the purpose of securing the cleanliness of operators -

a. An operator which giving treatment shall ensure that -

- i his hands and nails clean, and his nails short;
- ii he is wearing clean washable clothing, or alternatively a disposable covering that has not previously been used with any other client;
- iii he keeps any open boil, sore, cut or open wound on an exposed part of his body effectively covered by an impermeable dressing;
- v he does not smoke or consume food or drink.

b. A proprietor shall provide –

- i suitable and sufficient washing facilities conveniently accessible for the sole use of operators, such facilities to have hot and cold water, sanitising soap or detergent, and a nail brush;
- ii suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodations for operators.

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NOTE – THE FOLLOWING DOES NOT FORM PART OF THE BYELAWS

- A. Proprietors shall take all reasonable steps to ensure compliance with these byelaws by persons working on the premises. Section 16(9) of the Act lays down that a registered person shall cause to be prominently displayed on the premises a copy of these byelaws and a copy of any certificate of registration issued to him under Part VIII of the Act.
- B. Section 16 (1) and (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 provides that any person who offends against any of these byelaws shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £200. If the convicted person is registered under part VIII of the Act, the court may, instead of or in addition to imposing a fine, order the suspension or cancellation of his registration and of the registration of the premises in which the offence was committed if such premises are occupied by the person so convicted. Section 16(11) of the Act provides that it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence.
- C. Nothing in these byelaws shall extend to the carrying on of the business of tattooing by or under the supervision of a person who is registered as a medical practitioner or to premises on which any such business is carried on by or under the supervision of such a person.

Holier than Thou

Body Piercing

General Aftercare Sheet

Basic Aftercare

Healing time for a _____ piercing is approximately _____ months.

Even after this time a piece of jewellery should be left in the area at all times for at least 12 months. If the jewellery has to be removed before this time for any reason it is advisable to insert a piece of monofilament nylon wire or a retainer.

The aftercare a piercing receives can greatly affect its healing time, therefore please follow the instructions you have been given carefully and if irritation occurs with any product you are using, stop use immediately and seek advice from your G.P or your piercer.

If the information is followed thoroughly, the risk of infection is minimal, signs of infection are easy to detect they include:

- Localised heat, redness and swelling.
- Increased discomfort.
- Foul-smelling secretion.
- Lump forming at the either or both sides of the piercing.

Removing the jewellery at this stage can make matters worse, if you think you may have an infection please consult your piercer or G.P.

Care of new piercings

Hands should be washed with an anti-bacterial soap prior to touching/cleaning the piercing.

- All traces of dried matter should be removed from the piercing and the surrounding area by bathing the area with warm water and a soft clean wipe (if necessary).
- Care should be taken not to move the jewellery before all traces of dried matter have been removed, as this can cause damage to the freshly healed tissue surrounding the piercing.
- The area should be bathed with your chosen solution twice each day. The jewellery should then be gently rotated through the piercing. This should be done for the full duration of the healing time.
- After cleaning the piercing, pat dry gently with a clean, soft towel.

Cleaning solutions we recommend

- Anti-bacterial liquid soap (e.g. Provon; Anti-bac; Hibiscrub;)
Not suitable for oral piercings. Directions for use:
Apply a small amount in the palm of your hand, mix with a little water into a lather, apply to the area and gently massage in for a few minutes, rotate jewellery through the piercing, rinse off with fresh water and pat dry with a fresh clean towel.

- Savlon wound wash **Not suitable for oral piercings**
Apply a liberal amount of solution to the pierce, either with a cotton bud or spray the solution onto the area. Rotate the jewellery through the piercing and pat dry with a fresh clean towel.
- Saline solution **Not suitable for oral piercings**
Apply a liberal amount of solution to the pierce, either with a cotton bud or spray the solution onto the area. Rotate the jewellery through the piercing and pat dry with a fresh clean towel.
- ¼ Teaspoon Sea Salt Mixed With 8floz-Distilled Water **Suitable for all piercings**
Dissolve a quarter teaspoon of sea salt in 8 fl oz of boiling water, cool until tepid. Clean area twice a day using cotton pads or tips to apply the solution
- Lavender Oil/Tea Tree Oil (can be used neat or diluted).
Not suitable for genital or oral piercings.
Put 2 drops of chosen oil onto the pierce, massage in gently then rotate jewellery through, wipe of excess oil with a fresh, clean towel.
- Oral Difflam/Oraldene/Tech 2000/Sea salt mixed with distilled water.
Suitable for oral piecings only. Directions for use:
Rinse 5ml around the mouth for 30-60 seconds after meals during the initial healing period. Do not use more than 5-6 times a day and use it over intervals spaced out throughout the day.

Please wear suitable clothing for your appointment; something loose around the area will be more comfortable.

If you do not understand something please mention it before you go into the piercing room.

Healing times vary with the type and position of piercing and from person to person. The following should be taken in to consideration

- How healthy you are
- How prepared you are to look after the piercing until it is fully healed
- How active you are. Sporting activities can hinder the long term healing process of the piercing.

Things to avoid.

- Do not allow residue from soap based/scented products to come in contact with the fresh piercing, if this is unavoidable, rinse the area under running water to flush the solution out.
- Do not remove the jewellery until the piercing is fully healed.
- Do not use any antiseptic preparations (e.g.: Savlon cream; TCP; Dettol; etc.) to clean your fresh piercing as these can cause severe irritation.
- Do not fiddle with the jewellery using dirty fingers, as this is likely to introduce an infection.

Rejection:

Is where jewellery is expelled from the skin. It is not common if the tissue beneath the piercing is fairly fatty. There is no pain, but rejection will leave a scar, that will fade in time. Some causes of rejection include:

- Piercing through taut skin.
- Jewellery being ill fitting, either at the time of piercing or later once the piercing is healed.
- External stress (e.g. Tight clothing against the area).
- Allergic reaction to the jewellery.

If you think your piercing is rejecting please call in to the studio for advice.

Date:

Piercer:
Jewellery:

APPENDIX 3

Thou Art

Medical History & Body Piercing Consent Form

Please answer the following questions truthfully and complete the form in full.

Have you previously experienced or are currently experiencing any of the following:-

- Any conditions that affect the skin such as Acne, Psoriasis, Eczema, Impetigo or Dermatitis: Y/N
If Yes Please State Which
- Any heart conditions such as Angina, Heart Disease or a Congenital Heart Problem: Y/N
If Yes Please State Which
- Any conditions that affect the immune system such as Hepatitis, HIV or AIDS: Y/N
If Yes Please State Which
- Any conditions that may affect your blood such as Haemophilia, High Blood Pressure: Y/N
If Yes Please State Which
- Seizures, Epilepsy, Fainting or Dizzy spells Y/N
If Yes Please State Which
- Any allergies to items such as Nickel, Alcohol, Iodine, Plasters Latex etc: Y/N
If Yes Please State Which
- Bulimia: Y/N
- Diabetes : Y/N
- Psychiatric Disorders: Y/N
- Pregnancy or Breast Feeding: Y/N
- Any Previous Piercings in Area to be Pierced: Y/N
- Any Infections in Area to be Pierced: Y/N

Do you take:-

- Concurrent drug treatments: Y/N
- Blood thinning medication; e.g. Aspirin: Y/N
- Have you consumed any alcohol or drugs in the last 24 hours? Y/N
- Is there any other conditions medical or otherwise that you feel we should be aware of? Y/N

- I acknowledge that I have fully read and fully understand the information sheets accompanying this form and that I fully understand the procedure to be adopted and its consequential implications.
- I understand that body piercing is an unrecognised and inexact science and that at this time no formal training is available, therefore I do not hold the piercer responsible for incorrect placement of piercings and subsequent trauma I may suffer as a result of the piercing. I understand that this piercing is completely at my own risk.
- I acknowledge and state that I fully understand the proper aftercare advice that I have been given. I realize that if I do not comply with this advice an infection may occur. I understand that this is unrelated to the piercing procedure and I cannot hold the piercer responsible.
- I acknowledge that the piercing procedure has been fully explained to me and I fully understand that over a period of time after the piercing has been carried out (such time depending upon the part of the body pierced) the jewellery inserted in the piercing may begin to work it's way to the surface of the skin and eventually come out altogether leaving a scar and requiring a new piercing procedure. Consequently I understand that I may be left with scarring in due course.
- I confirm that I am willing to undergo the piercing procedure and realize that any scarring so caused is at my own risk and that if a fresh piercing is required it will be at my own cost.
- I therefore give consent for _____ of Holier than Thou Piercing Studios to pierce my _____ with a disposable piercing needle and to insert the chosen piece of jewellery into the piercing.
- The medical history that I have given is correct to the best of my knowledge and I understand that by not declaring everything I may be putting my health at serious risk.
- I agree to this consent form being kept for a minimum of 3 years and understand that local authorities may view them.
- I agree to any photographs taken being used by Holier Than Thou Ltd as they deem fit and appropriate and understand the image rights belong solely to Holier Than Thou Ltd.
- All the above clauses are severally and independently applicable of each other.
- I am over 16 years of age

Please fill out appropriate areas in block capitals:-

Name _____
 Address _____

 Date Of Birth _____
 Contact Number _____
 Email Address _____

Clients Signature _____
 Date _____
 Operators Signature _____
 Date _____

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