

## Tattooing and body piercing guidance

### PART B – Appendix 11

#### Decontamination requirements for equipment used in tattooing and skin piercing

Equipment for	Application of item	Recommendations
<b>Tattooing:</b>		
<b>Holders for needles i.e. tube, tip and grip</b>	Hold needles that pierce skin	Dismantle then clean and sterilize, or single-use
<b>Needles and needle bars</b>	Pierce skin	Single-use pre-sterilized
<b>Ink caps</b>	Hold inks that will become contaminated with blood	Single-use
<b>Ink cap trays</b>	Hold ink caps and will become contaminated with blood during use	Either single-use or clean and sterilize
<b>Motors &amp; clipcords</b>	Will become contaminated with blood via the practitioner's hands	Reduce contamination by covering with impervious barrier (e.g. plastic sleeving)  Remove impervious barrier carefully after use minimising transfer of contamination to the item  Thoroughly remove any visible contamination with detergent, then dry  Disinfect surface with 70% alcohol
<b>Elastic bands</b>	Will become contaminated with blood via the practitioner's hands	Single-use
<b>Body piercing:</b>		
<b>Needles, cannulas</b>	Pierce skin	Single use pre-sterilized
<b>Clamps used for skin folds, looped forceps, pliers and receiving tubes</b>	In close contact with pierced skin	Clean and sterilize or single-use
<b>Jewellery</b>	Inserted into sterile body tissues	Sterilize or pre-sterilized
<b>Spatulas, cotton/gauze pads and paper towels</b>	Will become contaminated with blood	Single-use
<b>Vernier calipers</b>	Should only be used on clean, unbroken skin	Clean between uses  Single use or autoclavable alternative should be used for oral and genital piercings
<b>Ear piercing guns</b>	These should only be of the type that use single-use self-contained cartridge containing the stud and back, such that the gun itself makes no client contact	Clean according to manufacturer's instructions
<b>Cartridges used with ear piercing guns</b>		Single-use