

SKABT09B7 (SQA Unit Code - F9KJ 04)

Carry out ear piercing



Overview

This unit is about ear piercing and the skills and knowledge necessary to carry out such work. It covers ear piercing of the ear lobe area only. You will need to use a variety of equipment, materials and products safely and correctly for this work. You will also need to provide the client with aftercare advice concerning the use of aftercare products, moving and removal of the stud and possible contra-actions.

To carry out this unit you will need to maintain effective health, safety and hygiene throughout your work. You will also need to maintain your personal appearance and good communication with the client.

The main outcomes of the unit are:

1. maintain safe and effective methods of working when piercing ears
2. consult, plan and prepare for ear lobe piercing with clients
3. pierce the ear lobes
4. provide aftercare advice

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 **maintain safe and effective methods of working when piercing ear lobes** by
- P1.1 setting up the work area to meet salon procedures and any current local bye-laws
 - P1.2 making sure that environmental conditions are suitable for the client and the treatment
 - P1.3 ensuring your personal hygiene, protection and appearance meets accepted industry and organisational requirements
 - P1.4 effectively disinfecting your hands prior to piercing ears
 - P1.5 using the correct personal protective equipment for the work
 - P1.6 ensuring all tools and equipment are sterilised using the correct methods
 - P1.7 maintaining accepted industry hygiene and safety practices throughout the treatment
 - P1.8 positioning equipment and materials for ease and safety of use
 - P1.9 ensuring your own posture and position minimises fatigue and the risk of injury whilst working
 - P1.10 disposing of waste materials safely and correctly
 - P1.11 ensuring that the treatment is cost effective and is carried out within a commercially viable time
 - P1.12 leaving the work area in a condition suitable for further treatments
 - P1.13 ensuring the client's records are up-to-date, accurate, easy to read and signed by the client and practitioner
- P2 **consult, plan and prepare for ear lobe piercing with clients** by
- P2.1 using **consultation techniques** in a polite and friendly manner to determine the client's treatment
 - P2.2 obtaining signed, written informed consent from the client prior to carrying out the service
 - P2.3 ensuring that informed and signed parental or guardian consent is obtained for minors prior to any treatment
 - P2.4 ensuring that a parent or guardian is present throughout the treatment for minors under the age of 16
 - P2.5 asking your client appropriate questions to identify if they have any contra-indications to ear piercing
 - P2.6 accurately recording your client's responses
 - P2.7 encouraging clients to ask questions to clarify any points
 - P2.8 taking the **necessary action** in response to any identified contra-indications
 - P2.9 ensuring client advice is given without reference to a specific medical condition and without causing undue alarm and

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- concern
- P2.10 ensuring that the positioning of the client allows suitable access to the ear lobe and minimises any risk of injury and discomfort to the client
- P2.11 agreeing the treatment and outcomes that are acceptable to your client and meet their needs
- P2.12 selecting **equipment, materials and products** that meet the needs of the treatment and relevant legislation
- P2.13 disinfecting the area of the ear lobe to be treated
- P2.14 safely and accurately marking the area of the ear lobe for piercing
- P3 **pierce the ear lobes** by
 - P3.1 piercing the ear lobe accurately and safely in the marked position
 - P3.2 minimising discomfort to the client by ensuring a quick and effective treatment
 - P3.3 maintaining hygienic conditions and client safety throughout your work
 - P3.4 using **equipment, materials and products** according to manufacturers' instructions
 - P3.5 ensuring that the finished result is to the client's satisfaction
- P4 **provide aftercare advice** by
 - P4.1 giving **advice** and recommendations accurately and constructively
 - P4.2 giving your clients suitable **advice** on the care of pierced ear lobes

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Organisational and legal requirements

- K1 your responsibilities under relevant health and safety legislation and your local authority requirements
- K2 why minors should not be given treatments without informed and signed parental or guardian consent
- K3 the importance of not discriminating against clients with illnesses and disabilities and why (eg Disability Discrimination Act)
- K4 the age at which an individual is classed as a minor and how this differs nationally
- K5 why it is important, when treating minors under 16 years of age, to have a parent or guardian present
- K6 the legal significance of gaining signed, informed client consent to treatment
- K7 your responsibilities and reasons for maintaining your own personal hygiene, protection and appearance according to accepted industry and organisational requirements
- K8 how to complete the client records used in your salon and the importance of and reasons for keeping records of treatments and gaining client signatures
- K9 the importance of the correct storage of client records in relation to the Data Protection Act
- K10 your salon's service times for completing ear lobe piercing and the importance of completing the application in a commercially viable time
- K11 the salon pricing structures

You need to know and understand:

How to work safely and effectively when piercing ear lobes

- K12 the type of personal protective equipment that should be available and used by yourself (eg powder free nitrile or powder free vinyl gloves)
- K13 why it is important to use personal protective equipment
- K14 the different types of chemicals used for disinfecting ear piercing tools and equipment
- K15 how to prepare yourself for carrying out piercing ear lobes
- K16 the importance of and reasons for disinfecting hands and how to do this effectively
- K17 why it is important to encourage and allow time for clients to ask questions
- K18 the importance of and reasons for not naming specific contra-indications when encouraging clients to seek medical advice
- K19 how to set up the work area for piercing ear lobes
- K20 the necessary environmental conditions for piercing ear lobes (including lighting, heating, ventilation and general comfort) and why these are

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- important
- K21 how to check equipment used for piercing ear lobes
- K22 why it is important to maintain standards of hygiene and the principles for avoiding cross-infection
- K23 how to effectively and safely position equipment and materials for piercing ear lobes
- K24 how to prepare and position the client for piercing ear lobes and the risks of poor positioning
- K25 how to minimise and dispose of general waste from ear lobe piercing
- K26 the condition in which the work area should be left and why this is important

You need to know and understand:

Consult, plan and prepare for ear lobe piercing

- K27 how to use effective consultation techniques when communicating with clients from different cultural and religious backgrounds, age, disabilities and gender for this treatment
- K28 the importance of questioning clients to establish any contra-indications to ear lobe piercing
- K29 why it is important to record client responses to questioning
- K30 the legal significance of client questioning and recording clients' responses
- K31 how to give effective advice and recommendations to clients
- K32 the questioning and listening skills you need in order to find out information
- K33 the reasons why it is important to encourage clients with contra-indications to seek medical advice
- K34 the importance of and reasons for not naming specific contra-indications when referring clients to a general practitioner

You need to know and understand:

Anatomy and Physiology

- K35 the external structure of the ear including the pinna, lobe, cartilage and cartilagenous tissue
- K36 the dangers associated with piercing cartilage and other areas of the body

You need to know and understand:

Contra-indications

- K37 those contra-indications that prevent treatment and require referral to a general practitioner and why (eg systemic medical conditions, serious localised skin infections, ear lobe infections etc)
- K38 those contra-indications that restrict treatment and why (eg previous ear piercings, scar tissue)
- K39 the importance of and reasons for not naming specific contra-indications when referring clients to a general practitioner

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You need to know and understand:

Equipment, materials and products

- K40 the types of equipment, materials and products that are used for ear lobe piercing and how to use them correctly
- K41 the action to take in the event of ear lobe piercing gun malfunction
- K42 the range and uses of aftercare products

You need to know and understand:

Ear lobe piercing

- K43 how to carry out ear lobe piercing safely and correctly
- K44 how long the treatment should take
- K45 possible contra-actions which may occur after ear lobe piercing
- K46 the risks associated with ear lobe piercing if treatment advice is ignored
- K47 the reasons why one pair of studs should be fitted at a time
- K48 why ear studs have to be left in place for the recommended time and the effects of premature removal

You need to know and understand:

Aftercare advice for clients

- K49 products for home use that will benefit the client and those to avoid and why
- K50 how and when to hygienically rotate the studs during the healing period
- K51 how to safely remove and replace studs after the healing period
- K52 the contra-actions that may occur after ear lobe piercing and what advice to give to clients

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Additional Information

Scope/range related to performance criteria

1. **Consultation techniques** are
 - 1.1. questioning
 - 1.2. visual
 - 1.3. manual
 - 1.4. reference to client records

2. **Necessary action** should be
 - 2.1. encouraging the client to seek medical advice
 - 2.2. explaining why the treatment cannot be carried out
 - 2.3. modification of treatment

3. **Equipment, materials and products** include
 - 3.1. ear piercing gun
 - 3.2. sterile skin marker pen
 - 3.3. sterile ear studs
 - 3.4. mirror
 - 3.5. consumables

4. **Aftercare advice** covers
 - 4.1. suitable homecare products and their use
 - 4.2. regular movement of the studs
 - 4.3. possible contra-actions
 - 4.4. removal of studs

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