


| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------|-------------|--------|
|  | | West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources | | | |
| | | MANUAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROCEDURES | | | |
| Section | Disease Control | Date | June 22, 2006 | Procedure # | DC-10 |
| Subject | Autoclave Requirements in Body Piercing Studios | | | Page | 1 of 1 |

Representatives from the body piercing industry indicate that the use of packaged, pre-sterilized piercing instruments is an uncommon practice. However, this memorandum allows for their use as long as the following guidelines are met:

- All jewelry to be inserted must be obtained in pre-sterilized packaging from the manufacturer, or be sterilized on-site prior to the procedure. This includes jewelry in new or good condition.
- Studios that use pre-sterilized instruments must have the following documentation from the instrument manufacturer:
 - method of sterilization and lot number
 - recommended method of storage, and
 - expiration date
- All unused, pre-sterilized instruments which have expired must be appropriately disposed, or re-sterilized in the studio before use.
- Packaging of pre-sterilized instruments must be dry, intact and undamaged. Instruments in wet or damaged packaging cannot be used and must be appropriately disposed, or re-sterilized in the studio before use.

An autoclave **SHALL ALWAYS** be required in a Body Piercing Studio. Instruments to be sterilized shall be:

- sealed in bags made specifically for the purpose of autoclave sterilization,
- include a color code indicator,
- include the date of sterilization, and
- include the initials of the Registered Body Piercing Technician

All instruments that are sterilized in the studio's autoclave should be re-sterilized if not used within six months of the date of sterilization.

References

History

Attachments