



All blood and bodily fluids should be treated as infectious at all times. It is the legal responsibility of the artist/ shop to prevent contamination between customers.

The points and questions inside will help you in deciding whether or not the artist/shop you have chosen is knowledgeable about infection control.

## For more information

Hepatitis Victoria  
Hepatitis Infoline: 1800 703 003  
[www.hepvic.org.au](http://www.hepvic.org.au)

HIV & Sexual Health Connect Line:  
1800 038 125  
[www.connectline.com.au/html/](http://www.connectline.com.au/html/)

# HEPATITISVICTORIA



Is your  
tattoo or  
piercing  
safe?



Tattooing and body piercing both involve the piercing of the skin. As these procedures involve blood, standard infection control practices need to be followed. This means that all surfaces and equipment have to be sterile for each customer.

It is not the legal responsibility of the customer to disclose if they have HIV, hepatitis B or C.

## To be sure...

- Make sure the tattooing studio/body piercing studio is registered with the local Council
- Visit the studio beforehand to talk about your work
- Ask the artist about their knowledge and practice of infection control procedures
- Assess the general cleanliness and organisation of the studio. The piercing/ tattoo area should be separate from the main area of the studio
- Ask them to show you their sterile area and sterilizing equipment
- Do they wear disposable gloves?
- Are the gloves replaced each time they touch anything outside of the sterile work area?
- Are items in the work area, such as lights, table, cords, etc, covered by cling film or similar material?
- Is this cling film replaced between customers?
- Do they open needle packs and other sterile equipment in front of customers?
- Are these items single use?
- Are the inks to be used in new, single use pots?
- If any item is not single use, has it been sterilised in the proper sterilising unit?
- Do they clean and sterilise surfaces between customers?
- And remember, always ask for after care instructions to prevent infections.