
B7 ear

piercing



Ear piercing is where the skin is cosmetically pierced to allow the insertion of a stud earring. Only the ear lobe (the fleshy part of the ear) is pierced. A variety of equipment, materials and products are required, which must be used safely to prevent infection and incorrect earring placement. The treatment itself is quick, profitable and has an immediate result.

The consultation is important to ensure that the placement for the earring is correct and balanced, and that correct aftercare advice is provided to prevent any possible contra-actions from occurring. There are different styles of ear studs available for ear piercing, which remain in place until the pierced ear skin has healed fully.



Unit B7 (City & Guilds Unit 010)

Carry out ear piercing *Optional*



Ear piercing

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Evidence requirements

To achieve this unit you must practically demonstrate in your everyday work that you have met the standards for ear lobe piercing.

The standards cover things that you must do (performance criteria), things that you must cover (range) and things that you must know.

What you must do

Your evidence should be collected when carrying out a real job, whether paid or voluntary, and when dealing with real clients, whether internal or external to the salon. Simulation is **not** allowed for any performance evidence within this unit.

Most evidence of your performance will be gathered from the observations made by your assessor, but you may be required to produce other evidence to support your performance if your assessor has not been present. This will involve your assessor observing your performance on at least **two** occasions. You must perform preparation activities on **two** different clients.

This unit has four outcomes.

Outcome 1

Maintain safe and effective methods of working when piercing ears

Outcome 2

Consult, plan and prepare for ear lobe piercing with clients

Outcome 3

Pierce the ear lobes

Outcome 4

Provide aftercare advice



“

*Correct aftercare advice
can ensure your client
recommends you to friends.*
Anita Crosland

”



Unit B7 (City & Guilds Unit 010)

Carry out ear piercing *Optional (continued)*

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Level 2 NVQ/SVQ Beauty

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What you must cover

You will see key words in bold on the 'What you must do' list. For each of these, there is a range of things that you must cover. You must show that you have:

Used all of the following consultation techniques:

Questioning

Visual

Manual

Reference to client records

Provided all of the following types of aftercare advice:

Suitable homecare products and their use

Regular movement of the stud

Possible contra-actions

Removal of studs

Used all of the following types of equipment, materials and products:

Ear piercing gun

Sterile skin marker pen

Sterile ear studs

Mirror

Consumables

Taken all of the following types of necessary action:

Encouraging the client to seek medical advice

Explaining why the treatment cannot be carried out

Modification of treatment

“

Explain each stage of the ear piercing treatment to the client beforehand. This will help them to relax as they will know what to expect.

Lorraine Nordmann

”



Drop and hoop earrings can be worn only once the pierced ear skin has healed fully. This takes at least six weeks.

Image courtesy of iStockphoto.com/Aldra

What you must know

You will be assessed on your knowledge of the following:

Organisational and legal requirements

How to work safely and effectively when piercing ear lobes

Consult, plan and prepare for ear lobe piercing

Anatomy and physiology

Contra-indications

Equipment, materials and products

Ear lobe piercing

Aftercare advice for clients

This will be completed through written and oral questioning by your assessor. For details of what you must know, see pages 13–16.



It is very important to ensure that the piercing is correctly placed.



Ear piercing

Useful words

Some terms that you will come across in this unit are explained below.

Certificate of registration This is awarded when salon premises have been successfully inspected to ensure that they are complying with local bylaws in relation to cosmetic piercing.

Consultation Assessment of clients' needs using different assessment techniques including questioning, observation, touch and reference to client records.

Contra-action An unwanted reaction occurring during or after treatment.

Contra-indications When a client has a contra-indication it means they have a condition or visible sign of having had an adverse reaction to a medication, product or service. Treatment should be avoided.

Environmental conditions The work environment should be safe, healthy and comfortable for both employees and clients. The factors to consider include temperature, lighting and ventilation.

Keloid Overgrowth of scar tissue.

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 This requires salons performing cosmetic skin piercing such as ear piercing to register with their local authority.

Modification A modification is any way you have adapted the treatment according to the client's treatment requirements identified at consultation. For an ear piercing treatment, an example is if a client has larger earlobes you may have to adjust the back clasp so it is not too tight following treatment.



Observation sign-off sheet

Unit B7 Carry out ear piercing

What you must do

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Level 2 NVQ/SVQ Beauty

Within your work, you must show your assessor that you can do the following. Your assessor will observe your performance on at least **two** separate occasions, on **two** different clients.

Each time you achieve **all** the points listed below within a single client service, your assessor will tick the circle and enter the date.

Outcome 1

Maintain safe and effective methods of working when piercing ears

- a Set up the work area to meet salon procedures and any current local bye-laws
- b Make sure that environmental conditions are suitable for the client and the treatment
- c Ensure your personal hygiene, protection and appearance meets accepted industry and organisational requirements
- d Effectively disinfect your hands prior to piercing ears
- e Use the correct personal protective equipment for the work
- f Ensure all tools and equipment are sterilised using the correct methods
- g Maintain accepted industry hygiene and safety practices throughout the treatment
- h Position equipment and materials for ease and safety of use
- i Ensure your own posture and position minimises fatigue and the risk of injury whilst working
- j Dispose of waste materials safely and correctly

Consider health and safety very carefully when using equipment such as an ear piercing gun.

Continues on next page



- k Ensure that the treatment is cost effective and is carried out within a commercially viable time
- l Leave the work area in a condition suitable for further treatments
- m Ensure the client's records are up-to-date, accurate, easy to read and signed by the client and practitioner



Ear piercing

Observation	1	2		
Achieved	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Date				
Candidate signature				
Assessor signature				
IV signature (if sampled)				

Outcome 2

Consult, plan and prepare for ear lobe piercing with clients

- a Use **consultation techniques** in a polite and friendly manner to determine the client's treatment
- b Obtain signed, written informed consent from the client prior to carrying out the service
- c Ensure that informed and signed parental or guardian consent is obtained for minors prior to any treatment *
- d Ensure that a parent or guardian is present throughout the treatment for minors under the age of 16 **
- e Ask your client appropriate questions to identify if they have any contra-indications to ear piercing
- f Accurately record your client's responses
- g Encourage clients to ask questions to clarify any points
- h Take the **necessary action** in response to any identified contra-indications ***
- i Ensure client advice is given without reference to a specific medical condition and without causing undue alarm and concern ****

Hints and tips

Make sure you check that the client doesn't have metal allergies before you begin the piercing service.

Continues on next page



Observation sign-off sheet

Unit B7 Carry out ear piercing

What you must do (continued)

Timing tip

A commercially acceptable time for ear piercing is 15 mins.

- j Ensure that the positioning of the client allows suitable access to the ear lobe and minimises any risk of injury and discomfort to the client
- k Agree the treatment and outcomes that are acceptable to your client and meet their needs
- l Select **equipment, materials and products** that meet the needs of the treatment and relevant legislation
- m Disinfect the area of the ear lobe to be treated
- n Safely and accurately mark the area of the ear lobe for piercing.

Observation	1	2		
Achieved	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Date				
Candidate signature				
Assessor signature				
IV signature (if sampled)				

- * Covered by observation Date _____
- Covered by oral questioning Date _____
- ** Covered by observation Date _____
- Covered by oral questioning Date _____
- *** Covered by observation Date _____
- Covered by oral questioning Date _____
- **** Covered by observation Date _____
- Covered by oral questioning Date _____

Continues on next page

Outcome 3

Pierce the ear lobes

- Pierce the ear lobe accurately and safely in the marked position
- Minimise discomfort to the client by ensuring a quick and effective treatment
- Maintain hygienic conditions and client safety throughout your work
- Use **equipment, materials and products** according to manufacturers' instructions.
- Ensure that the finished result is to the client's satisfaction



Ear piercing

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Observation	1	2		
Achieved	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Date				
Candidate signature				
Assessor signature				
IV signature (if sampled)				

Outcome 4

Provide aftercare advice

- Give advice and recommendations accurately and constructively
- Give your clients suitable advice on the care of pierced ear lobes



Observation	1	2		
Achieved	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Date				
Candidate signature				
Assessor signature				
IV signature (if sampled)				



Observation sign-off sheet

Unit B7 Carry out ear piercing

What you must cover

Before ticking the circles below, you must make sure that you have achieved 'What you must cover' in **all the outcomes in which it occurs.**

Consultation techniques

Tick the consultation techniques used in each observation. You must use **all** of them.

- Questioning

- Visual

- Manual

- Reference to client records

1	2		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Necessary actions

Tick the necessary actions taken in each observation. You must use **all** of them.

- Encouraging the client to seek medical advice

- Explaining why the treatment may not be carried out

- Modification of treatment

1	2		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Equipment, materials and products

Tick the types of equipment, materials and products to be used in each observation. You must use **all** of them.

- Ear piercing gun

- Sterile skin marker pen

- Sterile ear studs

- Mirror

- Consumables

1	2		
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Continues on next page



Aftercare advice

Tick the types of aftercare advice given in each observation.
You must give **all** of them.

	1	2		
Suitable homecare products and their use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular movement of the stud	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Possible contra-actions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Removal of studs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Observation	1	2		
Achieved	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Date				
Candidate signature				
Assessor signature				
IV signature (if sampled)				





Comment form

Unit B7

This form can be used to record oral questioning, or for assessor/candidate comments, if required.

Comment	Date
1	
2	



Drop earrings can help to create a glamorous evening look.

Knowledge sign-off sheet

Unit B7 Carry out ear piercing

What you must know



Ear piercing

13

You need to understand:

Evidence type

Organisational and legal requirements

1	your responsibilities under relevant health & safety legislation, and your local authority requirements	E3
2	why minors should not be given treatments without informed and signed parental or guardian consent	E3
3	the importance of not discriminating against clients with illnesses and disabilities and why (eg Disability Discrimination Act)	E3
4	the age at which an individual is classed as a minor and how this differs nationally	E3
5	why it is important, when treating minors under 16 years of age, to have a parent or guardian present	E3
6	the legal significance of gaining signed, informed client consent to treatment	E3
7	your responsibilities, and reasons for, maintaining your own personal hygiene, protection and appearance according to accepted industry and organisational requirements	E3
8	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	E3
9	the importance of the correct storage of client records in relation to the Data Protection Act	E3
10	your salon's service times for completing ear lobe piercing and the importance of completing the application in a commercially viable time	E3
11	the salon pricing structures	E3

You will be assessed on your knowledge and understanding of **all** the following points. This will be completed by your assessor through oral questions (evidence type E3) and a mandatory test (E4). These will be online tests.

The form tells you which evidence type is needed for each point.

Some areas appear in more than one unit (shaded in darker pink). These are covered in a cross-unit knowledge test. You only need to be tested on these once.

Once you have been assessed on each point, you can fill in the date and reference any written evidence that you've put in your portfolio.

Continues on next page



Knowledge sign-off sheet

Unit B7 Carry out ear piercing

What you must know (continued)

You need to understand:	Evidence type
How to work safely and effectively when piercing ear lobes	
12 the type of personal protective equipment that should be available and used by yourself (eg powder-free nitrile or powder-free vinyl gloves)	E3
13 why it is important to use personal protective equipment	E3
14 the different types of chemicals used for disinfecting ear piercing tools and equipment	E3
15 how to prepare yourself for carrying out piercing ear lobes	E3
16 the importance of, and reasons for, disinfecting hands and how to do this effectively	E3
17 why it is important to encourage and allow time for clients to ask questions	E3
18 the importance of, and reasons for, not naming specific contra-indications when encouraging clients to seek medical advice	E3
19 how to set up the work area for piercing ear lobes	E3
20 the necessary environmental conditions for piercing ear lobes (including lighting, heating, ventilation and general comfort) and why these are important	E3
21 how to check equipment used for piercing ear lobes	E3
22 why it is important to maintain standards of hygiene and the principles for avoiding cross-infection	E3
23 how to effectively and safely position equipment and materials for piercing ear lobes	E3
24 how to prepare and position the client for piercing ear lobes and the risks of poor positioning	E3

Continues on next page

You need to understand:	Evidence type
25 how to minimise and dispose of general waste from ear lobe piercing	E3
26 the condition in which the work area should be left and why this is important	E3
Consult, plan and prepare for ear lobe piercing	
27 how to use effective consultation techniques when communicating with clients from different cultural and religious backgrounds, age, disabilities and gender for this treatment	E3
28 the importance of questioning clients to establish any contra-indications to ear lobe piercing	E3
29 why it is important to record client responses to questioning	E3
30 the legal significance of client questioning and recording client's responses	E3
31 how to give effective advice and recommendations to clients	E3
32 the questioning and listening skills you need in order to find out information	E3
33 the reasons why it is important to encourage clients with contra-indications to seek medical advice	E3
34 the importance of, and reasons for, not naming specific contra-indications when referring clients to a general practitioner	E3
Anatomy and physiology	
35 the external structure of the ear, including the pinna, lobe, cartilage and cartiligenous tissue	E4
36 the dangers associated with piercing cartilage and other areas of the body	E4
Contra-indications	
37 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)	E4
38 those contra-indications that restrict treatment and why (eg previous ear piercings, scar tissue)	E4



Ear piercing

Continues on next page



Knowledge sign-off sheet

Unit B7 Carry out ear piercing

What you must know (continued)

You need to understand:	Evidence type
39 the importance of, and reasons for, not naming specific contra-indications when referring clients to a general practitioner	E4
Equipment, materials and products	
40 the types of equipment, materials and products that are used for ear lobe piercing and how to use them correctly	E3
41 the action to take in the event of ear lobe piercing gun malfunction	E4
42 the range and uses of aftercare products	E4
Ear lobe piercing	
43 how to carry out ear lobe piercing safely and correctly	E3
44 how long the treatment should take	E3
45 possible contra-actions which may occur after ear lobe piercing	E3
46 the risks associated with ear lobe piercing if treatment advice is ignored	E4
47 the reasons why one pair of studs should be fitted at a time	E4
48 why ear studs have to be left in place for the recommended time and the effects of premature removal	E4
Aftercare advice for clients	
49 products for home use that will benefit the client and those to avoid and why	E3
50 how and when to hygienically rotate the studs during the healing period	E3
51 how to safely remove and replace studs after the healing period	E3
52 the contra-actions that may occur after ear lobe piercing and what advice to give to clients	E3
Tick if E3 was an online test	<input type="radio"/> Date
Tick if E4 was an online test	<input type="radio"/> Date
Tick if cross-unit knowledge was an online test	<input type="radio"/> Date

Hints and tips

Correct aftercare advice is an essential professional service. This will prevent unwanted contra-actions, such as inflammation and secondary infection, and will ensure effective skin healing. This will also provide a retail opportunity for the sale of aftercare lotion.

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