

Canadian Professional Piercers Association (CPPA)

Minimum Standards

Effective Date: July 2026

Purpose

The Canadian Professional Piercers Association (CPPA) Minimum Standards establish the baseline expectations for safe, professional, and ethical body piercing practices among CPPA members. These standards are intended to promote client safety, support professional excellence, and foster public confidence in the body piercing industry across Canada.

These requirements represent the minimum expectations for membership. Members are encouraged to exceed these standards whenever possible through continued education, investment in quality equipment and jewellery, and commitment to evidence-informed practice.

1. Health, Safety & Infection Prevention

Members are expected to maintain safe and hygienic working environments that prioritize client health and minimize the risk of infection.

Minimum expectations include:

- Appropriate hand hygiene before and after every procedure.
- Use of new, sterile, single-use piercing needles.
- Sterile, single-use procedure supplies whenever applicable.
- Proper cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces between clients.
- Appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Safe handling and disposal of sharps and contaminated waste.
- Compliance with applicable provincial and municipal public health requirements.

2. Sterilization

Studios performing sterilization must maintain an effective sterilization program.

Minimum expectations include:

- Use of a medical-grade steam sterilizer (autoclave).
- Routine biological (spore) testing in accordance with manufacturer recommendations and applicable regulations.
- Routine mechanical and chemical monitoring of sterilization cycles.
- Proper cleaning, packaging, and storage of sterilized instruments.
- Maintenance records for sterilization equipment.
- Immediate removal from service of equipment that fails required testing until deficiencies have been corrected.

3. Jewellery Standards

Members are expected to use jewellery that is appropriate for initial piercings and long-term wear.

Jewellery should:

- Be manufactured from implant-grade or otherwise recognized body-safe materials.
- Be free from manufacturing defects or damage.
- Be appropriately sized for the anatomy and healing process.
- Be properly sterilized before insertion when required.
- Be obtained from reputable manufacturers that maintain appropriate quality standards.

4. Client Assessment & Informed Consent

Members shall ensure that clients receive sufficient information to make informed decisions regarding their piercing.

This includes:

- Reviewing medical considerations when appropriate.
- Explaining potential risks and expected healing.
- Discussing suitable jewellery options.
- Providing verbal and written aftercare instructions.
- Obtaining informed consent prior to every procedure.
- Respecting a client's right to decline or discontinue a procedure at any time.

5. Professional Competence

Members are expected to perform only procedures for which they possess the appropriate education, knowledge, and practical competency.

Members should:

- Work within their scope of competence.
- Seek additional education before offering unfamiliar procedures.
- Refer clients elsewhere when another practitioner is better suited to provide care.
- Participate in continuing education to maintain and improve professional knowledge.

6. Studio Standards

Studios operated by CPPA members should maintain professional environments that support client safety and quality care.

Studios should:

- Be clean, organized, and appropriately maintained.
- Provide a dedicated procedure area suitable for aseptic technique.
- Maintain appropriate lighting and equipment.
- Store sterile supplies to prevent contamination.
- Follow written cleaning and infection prevention procedures.

7. Documentation

Members should maintain appropriate records that support continuity of care and professional accountability.

Records should include:

- Client consent documentation.
- Procedure details.
- Jewellery information.
- Relevant aftercare provided.
- Documentation maintained in accordance with applicable privacy legislation.

8. Continuing Professional Development

Professional learning is an ongoing responsibility.

Members are encouraged to:

- Participate in conferences, educational seminars, and workshops.
- Remain informed regarding current research and best practices.
- Continue developing both technical and communication skills throughout their careers.

Compliance

Compliance with these Minimum Standards is a condition of CPPA membership.

Failure to maintain these standards may result in a review of membership status in accordance with CPPA's Membership Policies.

These Minimum Standards should be read alongside the **CPPA Code of Ethics**, which outlines the professional and ethical responsibilities expected of all members.

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Promoting safer body piercing through education, professionalism, and community.