Studio / stamp

Health questionnaire and consent to piercing

Client details

Full name

Date of birth

Phone

Date

A piercing is a wound with a foreign object left permanently inside it. It heals over weeks, and in cartilage it can take well over a year. We ask about what affects healing, what jewellery material is safe for you, and whether the procedure itself is safe today.

When we will not pierce at all

- Being under 18 without a parent or guardian present and their written consent
- Inflammation, infection, an unhealed wound or a skin lesion at the site
- Fever or a systemic infection on the day
- An uncontrolled bleeding disorder
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Not being able to give informed consent
- Nipple and intimate piercings for anyone under 18 — we perform these on adults only

When we need to talk first — and often need your doctor's agreement

- A confirmed metal allergy — this decides the jewellery material (implant-grade titanium, surgical steel, gold)
- A tendency to form keloids — especially with cartilage piercings
- Diabetes and other conditions that slow healing
- Treatment that suppresses immunity: steroids, biologics, chemotherapy
- A heart valve defect, prosthetic valve or previous infective endocarditis — needs to be agreed with your cardiologist
- Medication that affects blood clotting
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding — particularly nipple and navel piercings
- Autoimmune conditions during a flare
- Oral piercings where you have gum disease, thin gums or loose teeth

Please answer truthfully. Answering yes rarely rules the piercing out — more often it changes the jewellery material, the placement or the date. Withholding information puts you at risk more than anyone.

1. REACTION TO METAL

The jewellery stays inside the wound for the whole healing period. This is the first thing we need to establish.

Do you get itching, redness or a rash where jewellery, a belt buckle, a watch or a button touches your skin? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes — which metal, and what does it look like?

Are you allergic to latex, antiseptics or adhesive dressings? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. BLOOD CLOTTING

Some sites, the tongue and lip in particular, bleed heavily.

Do you take medication that affects blood clotting — anticoagulants or antiplatelets? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes — which medicine and what dose?

Have you been diagnosed with a clotting disorder, or do you bleed noticeably longer than others after a cut? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. HEALING AND IMMUNITY

A cartilage piercing takes six months upwards to heal. For all that time it is an open route for bacteria.

Do you have diabetes? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes — is it well controlled?

Do you take medication that suppresses your immune system — systemic steroids, biologics, cancer treatment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you have an autoimmune condition (e.g. Hashimoto's, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, Crohn's disease)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes — which condition, and is it currently flaring?

4. YOUR HEART

With some heart conditions a piercing needs to be agreed with your cardiologist first, because of the risk of infective endocarditis.

Do you have a heart valve defect, a prosthetic valve, a pacemaker, or have you had infective endocarditis? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes — what exactly, and who looks after you?

5. HOW YOUR SKIN SCARS

Ear cartilage is where keloids form most often.

After cuts, surgery or previous piercings, do you form raised scars that spread beyond the original wound (keloids)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has any previous piercing healed badly, become infected, or been rejected by your body? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes — which one and what happened?

6. DURING THE PROCEDURE

Do you faint or feel faint — including at the sight of needles or blood — or do you have epilepsy? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you pregnant or breastfeeding? ☐ Yes ☐ No

In the last 24 hours, have you drunk alcohol or taken recreational drugs? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. THE SITE

Piercing site

Is there any irritation, inflammation, unhealed wound or skin lesion at the site right now? ☐ Yes ☐ No

For oral piercings: are you being treated for gum disease, or do you have loose teeth, braces, crowns or veneers? ☐ Yes ☐ No

> Oral jewellery rubs against teeth and gums. Worn long term it can wear down enamel, crack fillings and cause gum recession — this is a known and accepted risk of this type of piercing.

8. ANYTHING WE HAVEN'T ASKED

Is there anything else about your health or medication we should know before we start?

☐ AGE AND ID: I confirm my age and that I have produced photographic ID on request. I understand that this studio pierces nipples and intimate areas only for clients aged 18 or over, and that clients under 16 must attend with a parent or legal guardian who signs this form with them. Maltese law sets no specific statutory minimum age for piercing, so this is the studio's own policy.

> I confirm that I am able to give consent, that I am sober and that I have made this decision freely. The risks and contraindications have been explained to me, including swelling, bleeding, infection, allergic reaction, scarring, migration and rejection of the jewellery, and I have had the chance to ask questions. Everything I have stated on this form is true. I consent to the piercing described in this record. This studio follows guidance issued by the Environmental Health Directorate of the Superintendence of Public Health on infection prevention and control for body piercing, including single-use sterile needles and instruments sterilised in a validated autoclave.

> DATA PROTECTION NOTICE — The data controller is _____, registered address: _____, Company Registration No.: _____. We process your personal data in order to provide the service you have booked (Article 6(1)(b) GDPR). Because we need to know about your health to carry out the procedure safely, that information is special category data and we process it only with your explicit, freely given consent (Article 9(2)(a) GDPR, together with the suitable and specific measures required by the Data Protection Act (Chapter 586 of the Laws of Malta)). We keep your records for 5 years from the end of the year in which the service was provided, reflecting the prescriptive periods in the Civil Code (Chapter 16 of the Laws of Malta); note that actions for damages arising from tort generally prescribe after 2 years. You have the right to access, rectify or erase your data, to restrict or object to processing, to data portability, and to complain to the Office of the Information and Data Protection Commissioner (IDPC) at idpc.org.mt. Providing health information is voluntary, but without it we cannot carry out the procedure safely.

Date

Client signature (consent and health questionnaire)

Aftercare Advice and Data Protection (Piercing)

> AFTERCARE — a piercing takes anything from a few weeks to over a year to heal, depending on where it is. Most complications come not from the procedure itself but from what happens to the jewellery afterwards.

1. THE FIRST DAY: mild swelling, redness and a little bleeding are a normal response to a wound. Do not touch the piercing with bare hands — ice wrapped in a cloth eases the swelling.

2. THROUGHOUT HEALING: clean it 2–3 times a day with sterile saline (0.9% NaCl) or a dedicated piercing aftercare spray; if your piercer recommends it, a mild antiseptic is fine. Alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, povidone-iodine and soap damage healing tissue — do not use them here.

3. THE JEWELLERY STAYS PUT: do not twist or turn it — it is common advice, but turning it tears the newly forming tissue and lengthens healing. The jewellery moves by itself when it is wet, and that is enough. Leave any change of jewellery to your piercer, and only once the piercing has fully healed — taking it out earlier, even for a few hours, can close a channel that took months to form.

4. UNTIL HEALING IS COMPLETE avoid swimming pools, the sea, lakes and saunas — chlorinated, salt and thermal water carries bacteria and substances that damage a healing channel.

5. SIGNS THAT MEAN CALLING STRAIGHT AWAY — contact your piercer, your family doctor or the nearest health centre (112 in an emergency) if you notice: pain that gets worse after the fourth day, a temperature above 38 °C, thick yellow-green discharge, redness spreading into the surrounding skin, or severe swelling that grows after the third day instead of going down.

- [ ] I have read the aftercare rules — cleaning with saline, no alcohol, hydrogen peroxide or povidone-iodine, no twisting and no changing the jewellery myself — and I agree to follow them
- [ ] I agree to avoid swimming pools, the sea, lakes and saunas for the whole healing period
- [ ] I know the warning signs listed above and I agree to contact the studio or seek medical advice (your family doctor, the nearest health centre, or 112) if they appear

Client comments / questions for the piercer (optional)

- [ ] *I consent to the processing of my personal data for the purpose of providing the piercing service and keeping the required records (this consent is necessary for us to proceed)*
- [ ] *I agree to be contacted with marketing information (newsletters, offers) by email or SMS — this is optional and I can unsubscribe at any time*
- [ ] *MARKETING CONSENT: I give my free and unpaid consent for _____ to use and publish photographs of my completed piercing (without showing my face or any identifying details) for promotional purposes on the studio's official social media profiles (including Instagram and Facebook) and website. I may withdraw this consent at any time, and doing so will not affect any use made before withdrawal.*

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Date

Client signature (aftercare received, data protection and acceptance of the work)