



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment.

PS-R109-20110401

April 1, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Licensed Body Piercing Facilities and Interested Citizens

FROM: Nancy E. Maertens, Director
Division of Health Licensing

SUBJECT: Body Piercing Definition-Surface Anchor, Microdermal, and Single-point Piercing

"Body Piercing" is defined in Section 44-32-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws as "...the creation of an opening in the body of a human being so as to create a permanent hole for the purpose of inserting jewelry or other decoration. This includes, but is not limited to, piercing of an ear, lip, tongue, nose, or eyebrow. "Body piercing" for the purpose of this chapter does not include piercing an ear lobe with a disposable, single-use stud or solid needle that is applied using a mechanical device to force the needle or stud through the ear lobe". "Body Piercing" is similarly defined in Section 101.E of Regulation 61-109, Standards for Permitting Body Piercing Facilities as "The creation of an opening in the body of a human being so as to create a permanent hole for the purpose of inserting jewelry or other decoration. This includes, but is not limited to, piercing of an ear, lip, tongue, nose, or eyebrow, but does not include piercing an ear lobe with a disposable, single-use stud or solid needle that is applied using a mechanical device to force the needle or stud through the ear lobe."

The Department has determined that surface anchor, microdermal, and single-point piercing comply with the above stated definitions because they create an opening in an individual's body, making a permanent hole into which an anchor is placed for the purpose of inserting jewelry or decorative pieces. Subdermal implant procedures and use of dermal punches are not approved to be carried out in body piercing facilities because they do not meet the definitions of "Body Piercing" as stated in Section 44-32-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws and R61-109."

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