



Body Art: Medical Attention

Always follow provided verbal and written aftercare instructions.

The Basics

- Before undergoing a body art procedure, consult a medical professional if you have concerns about the risks of the procedure.
 - Some artists will require a doctor's approval for clients with preexisting conditions.
- With a new tattoo, seek medical treatment when experiencing:
 - Excessive swelling, pain, or redness
 - Drainage near tattoo
 - Fever or chills
- With a new piercing, seek medical treatment when experiencing:
 - Excessive swelling around piercing
 - Redness spreading from the piercing
 - Large amounts of thick and smelly green, yellow, or gray discharge
 - Fever or chills
 - Painful, itchy, red, and swollen cartilage piercing

Keep in mind:

- Aftercare and other information found online is not a substitute for medical advice from your primary care doctor.
- Notify the body art facility of problems so they can identify the source of the issue.
- Report complications, infection, or disease related to your body art procedure to local health department.

