

Body Piercer interview questions

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What to expect

Body piercing interviews are practical and safety-heavy. Studios hire on hygiene habits, sterility knowledge and how you handle nervous clients rather than on how many piercings you have had yourself. Expect technical walk-throughs, client scenarios and direct questions about availability.

- **Technical and sterilisation:** How you set up a station, run an autoclave cycle and keep records that stand up to inspection.
- **Client consultation:** Reading what a client actually wants, explaining risk honestly and communicating aftercare.
- **Scenario and judgement:** Unsafe placements, unsure clients and jewellery that does not suit the anatomy.
- **Behavioural:** Past experience with healing problems, complaints and busy studio days.
- **Availability and reliability:** Evenings, weekends, opening and closing duties, and turning up on time.

Usually a short chat with the studio owner or manager first, then a practical stage where you spend an hour or two on the floor with the team. That practical stage is often the real interview, because they are watching whether you wash your hands, whether you touch your face with gloves on, and whether you reset the station without being asked. Some studios also ask you to run a mock consultation on a staff member. A paid trial shift usually comes before anything is confirmed.

1. Walk me through what happens to a needle and a piece of jewellery from the moment a client sits down to the end of the appointment.

Why they ask

This is the question that separates people who have worked in a studio from people who have only been pierced. It tests whether sterile technique is habit or theory.

How to structure your answer

A step-by-step walk-through. Move in order: pre-appointment setup, hand hygiene and gloves, skin preparation, the piercing itself, waste handling, and the record you leave behind. Do not skip the boring parts, because those are the point of the question.

Example answer

"Before the client arrives I have the station set up: barrier film on the surfaces, a fresh single-use needle in its sealed packaging on the tray, jewellery that has been through the autoclave in a sealed pouch, and gloves, gauze and saline within reach. I wash my hands, put on gloves, clean the site with an antiseptic swab and let it dry. I open the needle packaging in front of the client so they can see it is sealed, mark the placement, then pierce. The needle goes straight into the sharps container at the point of use, not carried across the room. Once the jewellery is in, I clean the site again, bin the waste into the correct stream, take the gloves off, wash my hands, then write up the record: needle batch, jewellery details, autoclave cycle number and the aftercare I gave. That sheet is what a council inspector or a client's doctor would look at, so it has to stand on its own."

2. Tell me about a time a client was unhappy with a piercing or with how it was healing.

Why they ask

Healing complaints are a normal part of the job. Employers want to hear how you investigate rather than how you defend yourself.

How to structure your answer

STAR. Situation, what the client presented with, the task of working out what was actually going on, the action you took and the follow-up, then the result and what you changed afterwards.

Example answer

"A client came back about a week after a cartilage piercing with a lot of redness and a bump forming. She was upset because she thought it was infected and had been cleaning it with a cotton tip every few hours, which was making it worse. I looked at it, and it was irritation rather than infection, so I explained what I was seeing, told her to stop with the cotton tips and switch to saline spray twice a day with no touching. I also swapped her to a longer post so the swelling had room. I booked her in for a check the following week. It settled down, and she came back for another piercing a few months later. What I took from it was to spend more time on aftercare at the time of the piercing, so people do not go looking for answers online."

3. A client asks for a surface piercing on the neck. You know rejection rates on that placement are high. How do you handle it?

Why they ask

It tests whether you can hold a safety line while keeping a paying client on side, which is the daily tension in this job.

How to structure your answer

A judgement-under-pressure structure. Acknowledge the request, ask why, give the honest risk information, offer an alternative, and state clearly where your line is and why.

Example answer

"First I would ask what drew them to that placement, because sometimes there is a reason and sometimes they have seen it on someone else. I would explain honestly that surface piercings on the neck move and reject often, and that if it rejects they will be left with scarring that is hard to hide. I would offer alternatives with a better track record in the same area, or a placement that suits their anatomy. If they still want it, that is their call, but I would want them to sign off knowing the rejection risk. I would rather lose one booking than put in a piercing I know is likely to fail and leave a scar. If I genuinely thought it was unsafe, I would say no and explain why."

4. How do you decide on jewellery size and material for a fresh piercing, and when do you downsize?

Why they ask

It checks the knowledge behind the hands: material choice, swelling, and the follow-up appointment most clients forget about.

How to structure your answer

A knowledge question with reasoning. State the principle, then the practical decision, then the exception or the follow-up.

Example answer

"For a fresh piercing I want implant-grade titanium or niobium, something that has been autoclaved and stays in a sealed pouch until I open it. Size comes down to anatomy and where the swelling will go. I want enough length that the jewellery does not pinch when the site swells, but not so much that it moves and catches on everything. That usually means a small amount of extra room on a lobe or a navel, and a similar allowance for cartilage. I check the fit before the client leaves and book them for a downsize once the initial swelling has gone, somewhere in the first few months depending on the site. If someone comes in with cheap jewellery from a marketplace or a piercing gun stud, I talk them through the nickel problem and offer to change it."

5. How do you explain aftercare to a client who is nervous and clearly not taking much in?

Why they ask

Aftercare advice is only useful if the client can repeat it later. This question tests how you teach, not just what you know.

How to structure your answer

A communication structure: settle the client first, give short steps, check understanding by asking them to repeat it back, then close the loop with a written sheet and a follow-up booking.

Example answer

"I would slow the whole thing down. I would sit them down, ask what they are worried about, and be honest about what it feels like, a sharp pinch and then pressure, rather than telling them it does not hurt. I would show them the sealed needle and the jewellery so there are no surprises. I would explain the aftercare in short steps: saline spray twice a day, do not touch it, do not sleep on it, come back if you see spreading redness or pus. Then I would ask them to tell me the aftercare back in their own words, because if they can repeat it, they will remember it. If they still were not ready, I would rather reschedule than push someone through a piercing they are not committed to."

6. This role covers evenings and weekends, including late trade on Fridays. How do you manage that?

Why they ask

Studios run when clients are free. Employers want to know you understand the roster before you start, not three weeks in.

How to structure your answer

A direct, honest answer. Confirm you can work the pattern, give a concrete example of how you have handled it, and be straight about any fixed commitment you have.

Example answer

"Evenings and weekends are when studios are busiest, so I have built my life around that rather than treating it as a problem. In my last role, Friday late trade and Saturday were my main shifts, and I was the one who closed the studio: shutting down the autoclave, logging the cycle, restocking the station and balancing the till. I keep one weekday free for appointments and study, and I am reliable about turning up on time, because a client who has booked a piercing has usually arranged their day around it."