

# MEGAN GARDNER'S EAR PIERCING POLICY

## INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEDICAL EAR PIERCING VISITS:

Dr. Gardner is pleased to offer medical ear piercing to the patients at Ark-La-Tex Children's Clinic. She uses the Blomdahl Medical Ear Piercing System (blomdahlnusa.com) which provides a medically safe way to pierce your child's ears that is only available to physicians. The Blomdahl system uses a sterile, single-use, disposable cartridge that is replaced with each piercing to prevent the transmission of infection. When having your child's ears pierced in a medical office, you have professional care from someone trained in medical technique and wound management. It also gives you ready access to medical professionals for any questions, problems or concerns before, during, or after the procedure. Your child's piercing information will be a part of your child's office medical record. Our Blomdahl earrings are medical grade plastic which is recommended with initial piercings. Medical grade plastic prevents allergic reactions.

### APPOINTMENTS:

- **All Medical Ear Piercing Appointments MUST be scheduled in advance. You can leave a message on Dr. Gardner's nurses voicemail to schedule through her nurses.**
  - *Please know that just like any visit, emergencies happen. We apologize in advance if we ever have to cancel a medical ear piercing appointment last minute and will do our best to reschedule your child ASAP at a time that works for your family.*
- Medical ear piercing will be done by appointment only. We will NOT accept Walk-Ins for medical ear piercing. Piercing must be paid for upon arrival. You can schedule up to two children for medical ear piercing but they both must have appointments scheduled. A parent/legal guardian must accompany all patients <18yo for medical ear piercing visits because a consent must be signed at the visit.
- Dr. Gardner will only pierce the EAR LOBE. If more than 1 piercing per lobe is requested:
  - Only 1 piercing per ear lobe will be performed at a visit. A 2nd visit would be required to have a 2nd piercing in order to allow for proper healing time from the initial piercing.
- Your child must be at least 3 months for medical ear piercing. At 3 months your child's ear should have grown big enough to allow for proper placement of the earring. If you choose to have your child's ears pierced at 3 months, they must have received their 1<sup>st</sup> set of immunizations at least 2 weeks prior to the piercing appointment.
- We will perform but do not recommend ear piercing for children between 10 months of age and 4 years of age due to the increased likelihood your child will be uncooperative. Children in this age range are also more likely to pick at their earrings, making them more susceptible to infection.
- For children 3yo and up, your child must have expressed the desire to get their ears pierced. They must be able to sit still during the piercing. They must agree to let either their caregiver(s) either perform or oversee their after-care to ensure a good outcome. We will not hold an older child down for this procedure as it is an elective, cosmetic procedure. A child will sit beside the parent leaning against the parent's shoulder. Teens will simply sit quietly on their own.
- All children must be able to cooperate and remain still during the piercing. If for any reason, it is deemed unsafe for your child or our staff to continue with the piercing, then the appointment will be cancelled and rescheduled for another time. We will refund payments if visits are cancelled but we will deduct a \$15 cancellation fee.
- If your child has long hair, **PLEASE** pull it back in a hair tie for the piercing.
- Your child must be completely up to date on routine childhood immunizations for age.

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- Your child must not have a history of keloids or a strong family history of keloids.
- **PER HIPAA GUIDELINES, WE DO NOT ALLOW VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDINGS WHILE WE ARE PIERCING YOUR CHILD'S EARS.**
- At this time, we do offer medical ear piercing to non-patients and to parents.

## WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Your child will experience a pinch and stinging sensation, similar to a vaccine injection, during the procedure. Pain medication should not be needed.
- We currently do not offer numbing cream.
- We can reserve a specific earring selection for up to 1 business week prior to appointment. If you want a specific pair please let us know upon scheduling so that we can do our best to ensure we have it on your appointment date, but we will only reserve for 1 business week (5 days).
- Dr. Gardner can potentially attend a piercing party of 5 or more outside of the office if the dates and times work with her schedule. She does not guarantee this option to be available.

## RISKS:

Medical ear piercing is a minor surgical procedure with similar risks to stitches and abscess drainage. Despite precautions, there is a small chance of infection, scarring or allergic reactions. Some people are prone to scarring and there is a small risk that a person could develop a keloid (an overgrown scar) formation at the piercing site. We do ask that you sign a consent waiver at the time of the procedure to verify that you have been notified of these risks.

## AFTER CARE:

- You will receive an After Care Brochure

## PRICING:

- Fees for medical ear piercing will NOT be filed through your insurance. All payments for this service are due upon arrival at the visit. We accept CASH only. Please review current prices on the *Dr. Megan Gardner – Pediatrics* Facebook page.
  - GIFT CERTIFICATES ARE AVAILABLE.
  - *If piercing is cancelled after arrival, you can request a refund. A \$20 charge will be assessed and will be deducted from your refund.*