

Why should I use Bee Well Pediatrics for ear piercing?

We believe that using the Blomdahl medical ear piercing system, available only to physicians, provides your child with a safer and more sanitary alternative to the mall or jewelry store. Blomdahl is a sterile system where a disposable cartridge is replaced with every piercing and uses medical-grade plastic or titanium piercing studs to reduce the chance of allergic reaction.

In a medical office, you have professional care from doctors trained in sterile technique and wound management. You also have ready access to medical professionals for any questions, problems or concerns before, during or after the procedure. We also offer pre-procedure topical anesthesia, which is not available in non-medical settings.

Can I get it done during another scheduled visit or as a walk-in?

Ear piercing is performed by appointment only and will not be performed as part of a sick or well visit. Ear piercing will be conducted during a visit dedicated solely to that procedure which will allow time for the anesthetic to take effect and the procedure to be explained and performed with detailed aftercare instructions.

How old must my child be to have his/her ears pierced?

This service is available for patients 3-6 months old and 7 years and older who are up to date with their tetanus vaccines. Some exceptions to this age policy may be made at the discretion of the pediatrician. We need your child to be able to sit quietly during the procedure and to allow or participate in responsible aftercare to ensure a good outcome. The staff reserves the right to cancel the procedure if they feel, for any reason, the situation may be unsafe due to a child's inability to cooperate.

Where can I get pierced?

The only location we will pierce is the earlobe. We will pierce no more than two earrings per ear lobe. A maximum of one pair of piercings (one per lobe) will be performed at a single visit. We do not provide cartilage (upper earlobe) piercing.

How much will it cost?

This is a cosmetic procedure and will not be filed against insurance. Payments are due at time of service and include the price of the earring, procedure, and topical anesthesia. A single piercing is \$40 and both ears are \$70.

What kind of earrings are used?

The earrings come in single-use sterile cartridges and are available in medical-grade plastic or medical-grade titanium, the most superior non-allergenic metal.

Why is it important to have nickel-free earrings?

5.8% of Americans are allergic or sensitive to nickel. A 2008 report in the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* found no particular price point or country of origin that assured earrings did or did not contain nickel, and a survey of earrings in a wide range of locations and price points marketed at children and women under 40 revealed high nickel concentrations in 24-85% of earrings sampled.

Titanium and gold contain similar trace amounts of nickel, but titanium leaches less nickel into the body and is the superior choice for avoiding nickel sensitivity. Any Blomdahl metal earring, even gold-plated, will only contain titanium on the portion of the earring that touches the skin.

What styles are available?



We currently stock crystal medical-grade plastic piercing studs. For more colors and styles including titanium and gold-plated titanium, please see our in-office display and let us know what you'd like us to order at least two weeks prior to your appointment.

Will it hurt?

We use a local topical anesthetic to reduce the discomfort associated with ear piercing. We apply it to the skin and allow it to remain on the ear for 30 minutes to maximize its effect. Afterwards, the child will experience only a pinch and a small sting, similar to a vaccination.

What are the risks?

Ear piercing is a minor surgical procedure with similar risks to stitches or abscess drainage. Despite our precautions and sterile technique, there is a small chance of infection, scarring, or allergic reactions. As some people are prone to scarring, there is a small risk that a keloid, or overgrown scar, could form at the site. We will ask you to sign an informed consent to verify that you have been notified of these risks.

How do I care for the piercing afterwards?

After piercing, you must clean the earlobe with soap and water twice daily, or with sterile saline. Always use clean hands to touch ears and earrings. Do not twist the earrings or apply rubbing alcohol as this will impede healing. The earrings will need to stay in place for 6 weeks before replacing. You will be provided with an Aftercare Instructions handout for more detailed information.