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.