

Tattooing and Micropigmentation

Infection Prevention and Control Information for Operators

What is the Health Risk?

Instruments and equipment used for tattooing and micropigmentation may become contaminated with blood that carries blood-borne diseases such as those that cause hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. Other infections can also occur if equipment is not properly clean, disinfected or sterilized.

You do not have to see blood or body fluids on instruments, equipment or surfaces for an infection to occur.

Protect Yourself

- Practice hand hygiene before and after each client using liquid soap and warm water or alcohol-based hand rub. When hands are visibly soiled they must be washed with soap and water.
- New, single-use, disposable gloves must be worn for each client and discarded after each client. Practice hand hygiene before and after using gloves.
- Discard needles immediately after use into a puncture resistant sharps container labeled "biohazard".
- Keep your vaccinations up-to-date
 - Hepatitis B vaccine – 3 doses
 - Tetanus vaccine – every 10 years
 - Influenza vaccine – every year

Protect Your Clients

- Only single-use, disposable, sterile needles may be used.
- Assemble and set up all required supplies immediately prior to starting the procedure.
- Disposable ink caps supplied in bulk must be cleaned and disinfected prior to use with an intermediate level disinfectant. See **Disinfection of Instruments and Equipment** chart.
- Clean new needles with an ultrasonic cleaner after they are attached to the needle bar before sterilization.
- Liquid used for rinsing between colours must be placed in disposable cups. The leftover liquid and cups must be discarded after each client.
- Stencils must be single-use and discarded at the end of the procedure.
- A sufficient number of tissues or wipes required for use during the procedure must be dispensed prior to the service. Any unused tissues or wipes not used during the procedure must be discarded after each client.

- Do not tattoo or micropigment within six inches of inflamed/infected skin or skin with a rash.
- Discard disposable ink caps immediately after each client. Any left over ink must be discarded.
- Discard the entire needle bar assembly (i.e. needle bar with attached needles) into an approved sharps container immediately after each tattoo or micropigmentation procedure. There must be no further handling or processing of the used needles or bar prior to being discarded.
- Any leftover products must be discarded and cannot be returned to their original containers and must not be used on another client.
- Cover the tattoo with individually packaged dressing or bandage intended for covering wounds.
- Clean and disinfect work surfaces (e.g. tables, headrests, etc.) using an intermediate to high level disinfectant after each client. See **Disinfection of Instruments and Equipment** chart.
- Clients must be given verbal and written aftercare instructions. Include:
 - A reminder for hand hygiene prior to touching tattooed area,
 - Expected healing time,
 - Advice on how to deal with slight redness, pain or swelling
 - Possible complications with signs and symptoms and
 - A recommendation to seek medical attention if the problem does not resolve within 24 hours
- **Micropigmentation-** If a tattoo machine is not used for micropigmentation, the needle holder device must be single-use disposable or cleaned and then sterilized after use.

Record Keeping

All records are to be kept onsite for one year and on file for five years.

- **Client records:** Include clients full name, complete mailing address, telephone number and details of the procedure.
- Keep accidental blood exposure records on site for a minimum of one year and on file for a minimum of five years. Records must include the following information:
 - First and last name of person exposed
 - Address and phone number of person exposed
 - First and last name of personal service worker involved
 - Date of incident
 - Site of injury
 - Circumstances surrounding incident
 - How equipment was handled following incident

For more information please contact the Infectious Disease Control Team at 519-663-5317 ext. 2330 or go to www.healthunit.com

Source:

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (2009). Infection prevention and control best practices for personal services settings. Retrieved from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/oph_standards/ophs/progstds/pdfs/pssp_2008.pdf

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