

Tattooing and Micropigmentation

Before the Service:

- Perform hand hygiene.
- Inspect the skin. Do not tattoo or micropigment within 15 cm (6 inches) of inflamed or infected skin or skin with a rash.
- All supplies and equipment required for tattooing or micropigmentation are to be assembled and set up immediately prior to starting the procedure.
- An approved sharps container must be located in areas where sharps and needles are used.

You do not have to see blood or bodily fluids on instruments for an infection to occur.

Equipment:

- Single-use, disposable sterile needles must be used and discarded in an approved sharps container immediately after use.
- When pre-packaged, sterile items are used (i.e., needles, tubes, needle cartridges, etc.), records are required on-site for tracking purposes (i.e., proof of sterility, name of manufacturer, lot numbers, invoices/receipts, expiry date if applicable, etc.). **Any sterile items without proper records may be seized by a Public Health Inspector.**
- The entire needle bar assembly (needle bar with attached needles) must be discarded into an approved sharps container immediately after each tattoo or micropigmentation procedure.
- Any razors used for shaving skin must be single-use and discarded in an approved sharps container immediately after use.
- All reusable uncovered equipment and instruments such as clip cords, contact screws, service trays, spray bottles, tattoo machine and controls, and tube clamp must be cleaned and disinfected with an intermediate-level solution between clients. If covered by a single-use wrap, then the wrap must be discarded, and surfaces cleaned and disinfected with a low-level disinfectant after each client.
- Single-use, disposable ink caps are preferred and must be discarded immediately after each client. Single-use, disposable ink caps must be disinfected with an intermediate-level disinfectant (e.g., 70-90% alcohol) and stored in a clean covered container before use.
- Reusable ink caps must be cleaned and sterilized between each use.

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- Reusable ink cap holders must be cleaned and high-level disinfected.
- Water used for rinsing between colours must be placed in disposable cups. Solution and cups must be discarded after each client.
- Equipment and supplies that have been used or provided for the service which cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected must be single-use (e.g., stencils, grommets, elastics, paper towel, petroleum jelly, ink, cotton, gauze, etc.).
- If needles are being attached to a needle bar (e.g., soldering), it must be cleaned using an ultrasonic cleaner before sterilization. After use, needles attached to the needle bar must not be detached/broken off prior to being discarded to avoid needlestick injuries.
- Reusable tattoo tubes must be disassembled prior to cleaning and sterilization.

Sterilization:

- Only sterilizers/autoclaves that meet the standards by Health Canada and Canadian Standards Association are approved for use (refer to the *Sterilization, Chemical & Physical Monitoring of Sterilizer, Biological Monitoring of Sterilizer* and *Sterilization Log Sheet* information sheets). If in doubt, pre-packaged, sterile equipment and instruments must be purchased and used.

Client Records:

- Client records must be kept on-site for all invasive services, and must include date of service, client's contact information (full name, address, telephone number), details of the service, procedure and risks associated with the service were explained to the client, aftercare instructions were given, lot numbers and expiry date (if applicable) of the pre-packaged sterile equipment used in the procedure, and the service provider's full name.
- Records must be kept on file for a minimum of 1 year on-site, and thereafter for a minimum of an additional 2 years (on-site or off-site).

After Care:

- Cover tattooed area with a single-use bandage intended to cover wounds. Dressings not intended for skin cannot be used (e.g., meat pads). Sterile dressings are preferred if possible.
- Clients must be given verbal and written information regarding tattooing aftercare including:
 - ✓ Clean hands immediately before touching the area
 - ✓ The expected healing time of the site
 - ✓ Description of possible complications and their signs and symptoms
 - ✓ Advice on how to deal with slight redness, pain or swelling
 - ✓ Recommendation to consult with a family physician within 24 hours if any signs of an infection develop
 - ✓ Cover the tattoo with a single-use dressing intended to cover wounds
 - ✓ Ointment may be applied to help prevent infection



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