

Electrolysis and Laser Hair Removal

Before the Service:

- Perform hand hygiene.
- Inspect the skin. Do not treat inflamed or infected skin or skin with a rash.
- Needles required for the electrolysis service are to remain in the sterile package until use.
- Approved sharps containers must be located in areas where needles and sharps 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 and not saved for reuse even with the same client.
- Reusable UV eye goggles and laser heads/tips/wands must be cleaned and disinfected with an intermediate level disinfectant between client use.
- To expose ingrown hairs, single-use sterile needles or lancets can be used.
- If tweezers are used to expose ingrown hairs, it must be cleaned and high-level disinfected between clients. Tweezers used to remove hair from the hair follicle must be cleaned and intermediate-level disinfected.
- Any equipment, instrument or item used to hold, manipulate, or contact a sterile item (e.g., needle/probe holder, tweezers used to insert needle into holder, removable cap/tip of epilator, permanent attached pin device) must be cleaned and high-level disinfected between clients – refer to *Cleaning, Disinfection & Sterilization Flowchart*.
- Equipment surfaces that are covered with single-use covers/sheaths (e.g., control unit and epilator cord that comes in contact with client's skin or handled by worker, laser exterior power switches/touch screen/cables, and service trays) must be cleaned and low-level disinfected. These items must be cleaned and intermediate-level disinfected if not covered.
- All other reusable equipment and instruments (e.g., electrodes, sponge covers, magnifying glass and arm/magnifying goggles, scissors for cutting hair, light source touched during the procedure) must be cleaned and then low-level disinfected between clients – refer to *Cleaning, Disinfection & Sterilization Flowchart*.

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Durham Health Connection Line

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729
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Source: Guide to Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Service Settings, Public Health Ontario, July 2019.

- Equipment and instruments that cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected must be single-use (e.g., cotton balls, swabs, dental lip rolls, leftover paper towels, wooden applicators, needle, and needle holder tip combination units).
- If anesthetic is used, only topical local anesthetic is allowed. Injectable anesthetic is prohibited. If a topical local anesthetic is used, the site is to be cleaned with a suitable skin antiseptic before applying the anesthetic using a single-use applicator.
- When pre-packaged, sterile items are used (i.e., needles, etc.), records are required on-site for tracking purposes (i.e., proof of sterility, name of manufacturer, lot numbers, expiry date if applicable, invoices/receipts, etc.). **Any sterile items without proper records may be seized at time of inspection.**
- Refer to the following information sheets if a sterilizer is used on-site: *Sterilizer On-site, Chemical & Physical Monitoring of Sterilizer, Biological Monitoring of Sterilizer, Sterilization Log Sheet.*

Client Records:

- Client records must be kept on-site for all electrolysis and laser hair removal services, and must include date of service, client contact details (i.e., client's full name, address, telephone number), details of the service, an explanation of the procedure as well as risks associated with the service was provided, and the service provider's full name.
- Lot numbers and expiry date (if applicable) of the pre-packaged sterile equipment used in the procedure.
- Records must be kept for at least 1 year on-site, and an additional 2 years (on-site or off-site) thereafter.

Aftercare:

Clients must be given verbal and written aftercare instructions on the following:

- ✓ Avoid touching skin that has undergone electrolysis or laser hair removal. If area is touched, then ensure hands are washed prior to touching area.
- ✓ Expected healing time of site.
- ✓ A 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 physician within 24 hours if any signs of infection develop following the procedure.
- ✓ Ointment or astringent may be applied to soothe the skin.



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