

Tattooing and Micropigmentation

In addition to *General and Operational Requirements*

Before the Service:

- Inspect the skin. Do not tattoo or micropigment within six 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.
- Approved sharps containers must be located in the area that the sharps item is used.

You do not have to see blood or body 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.
- 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 equipment and instruments (e.g. beds, chairs, counters, clip cords, motor frames) must be cleaned and then disinfected (low to high level depending on use) between clients – refer to *Cleaning, Disinfection & Sterilization Flowchart*.
- Single-use disposable ink caps are preferred. Disposable ink caps* must be discarded immediately after each client.
*Prior to using disposable ink caps that are supplied in bulk quantities, individual ink caps must be cleaned and then disinfected with an intermediate level disinfectant (e.g. 70-90% isopropyl alcohol).
- Reusable ink caps must be cleaned and sterilized between each use. Reusable ink cap holders, used in combination with reusable ink caps, must be cleaned and high-level disinfected.
- Liquid used for rinsing between colours must be placed in disposable cups. The liquid and cups must be discarded after each client.
- Equipment and instruments that cannot be properly cleaned and disinfected between clients are single-use (e.g. stencils, ink caps, grommets, elastics, leftover paper towels, Vaseline, ink, cotton, etc.).

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- If a tattoo machine is not used for micropigmentation, the needle holder device on the pen/instrument must be single-use disposable or cleaned and then sterilized before it can be used again.
- After needles are attached to the needle bar, they must be cleaned using an ultrasonic cleaner before sterilization. Used needles and needle bars must not be manipulated prior to being discarded.
- Reusable tubes must be disassembled prior to cleaning and sterilization.
- **Sterilization**
- Refer to the following information sheets: *Sterilization, Chemical & Physical Monitoring of Sterilizer, Biological Monitoring of Sterilizer, and Sterilization Log Sheet*.
- Provide an approved sterilizer (Refer to *Sterilization* information sheet) or pre-packaged, sterile items.
- If pre-packaged, sterile items are provided, records of all information are required on-site for tracking purposes (i.e. proof of sterility, name of company that sterilizes the needles, lot numbers, invoices / receipts, etc.). **Any sterile items without records to prove sterility may be seized by the Public Health Inspector at time of inspection.**

After Care

- The tattoo must be covered with an individually packaged dressing or bandage intended for covering wounds.
- Clients must be given verbal and written information regarding tattooing aftercare such as:
 - ✓ Appropriate aftercare for tattooing and micropigmentation
 - ✓ Clean hands immediately before touching tattooed or micropigmented area
 - ✓ Discuss the expected healing time of the site with the client
 - ✓ Describe possible complications and their signs and symptoms
 - ✓ Advice on how to deal with slight redness, pain or swelling
 - ✓ Recommend consultation with a family physician if the problem does not improve within 24 hours



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Environmental Help Line
905-723-3818 or 1-888-777-9613
durham.ca



If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-888-777-9613

Source: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Services Settings, Jan. 2009.