

Tattooing and Micropigmentation

Services that break the skin, such as tattooing and micropigmentation, are well-recognized risk factors for the transmission of blood-borne infections such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. **Infection prevention and control precautions must be followed to protect both personal service workers and clients.**

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

The following is in addition to general operational requirements for personal services settings.

Infection Prevention and Control Requirements

Hand Hygiene & Glove Use

- Hand hygiene must be practiced by the personal services worker (PSW):
 - before and after each client;
 - before and after wearing gloves; and
 - between breaks in service.
- Gloves should be removed immediately after completion of the procedure, and before touching clean surfaces.
- Single-use disposable gloves must never be reused or washed.

Prior to Service

- Client's skin should be assessed. Do not tattoo or micropigment within six inches of inflamed or infected skin, or skin with a rash.
- Site on the client's skin should be cleaned with a skin antiseptic prior to providing the invasive procedure.
- Remove any items not required from the work area.
- Personal items belonging to the personal service worker(s) (e.g. food, drinks, and medication) should not be stored with client supplies.
- All supplies required for tattooing or micropigmentation are to be assembled and set-up immediately prior to starting the procedure.
- **Only Use single-use, disposable, sterile needles.**
- Open sterile, packaged equipment only when ready to begin procedure. If the sterile packaging has been opened or damaged in any way, it should not be used.
- Use disposable razors for shaving tattoo area.
- Single-use ink caps are preferred.
- Liquid used for rinsing between colours must be placed in disposable cups. A sufficient number of tissues or wipes required for use during a tattoo or micropigmentation procedure must be dispensed prior to the service.
- Dispense creams, lotions and ointments with single-use applicators.
- Cover items that may be handled during the procedure with single use plastic coverings.
- Cover any work surfaces or items that cannot be disinfected (tattoo machine, spray bottles, cords) with disposable coverings (e.g. single use plastic wrap).

After Service

- Tattoo area is covered with a clean and non-stick dressing intended for covering wounds.
- Used needles and needle bars must not be handled or manipulated prior to being discarded.
- Used needles/sharps must be placed into a puncture-resistant, leak-proof container with a tight-fitting lid and properly labelled with a biological hazard sign.
- Ink caps, any left over ink and leftover petroleum jelly are disposed of in a lined garbage container. They must not be returned to their original containers and must not be used on another client.
- All liquid and cups must be discarded after each client.
- Any assembled unprotected or unused tissues and wipes not used during the procedure must be discarded after each client.
- All plastic coverings must be discarded after each client
- If stencils are used they must be single-use and discarded at the end of the procedure.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Refer to separate fact sheets for sterilization guidelines.
- All re-useable equipment is cleaned then disinfected or sterilized as required.
- For micropigmentation pen/instrument, the needle holder device, outer casing and inner needle chamber must be single-use disposable or cleaned and then sterilized before re-use.
- Ink cap holders are to be high-level disinfected.
- Surfaces covered by plastic or other barriers must be cleaned and low-level disinfected after each client. Any surfaces accidentally contaminated with blood and/or body fluids must be cleaned and high-level disinfected.
- Store multi-use tools in a clean, covered container when not in use and should be clearly labelled as clean.

Blood and Body Fluid Exposures

- Provide client with verbal and written after-care instructions including instructions to seek medical advice if complications occur.
- Keep client records and accidental blood and body fluid exposure records on site for one year and off site for 5 years.
- Hepatitis B vaccination for staff is strongly recommended.

Note: Any handling and manipulation of used needles in any manner, such as disassembling the needle bar from the needles, increases the risk of needle stick injury for the PSW.

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION