



Guidance for Operators: TATTOOING & MICROPIGMENTATION

HEALTH CONCERN: Equipment/instruments used for Tattooing and Micropigmentation may become contaminated with blood or body fluids carrying germs like Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV. You do not have to see blood or body fluids on instruments for transmission of infection to occur.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Personal Service Settings (PSS) are required to operate in compliance with **Ontario Regulation 136/18: Personal Service Settings**.

Operators and staff of personal service settings are encouraged to review the **Guide to Infection Prevention and Control in Personal Service Settings** from Public Health Ontario to learn more about infection prevention and control practices that reduce the risk of transmission of infections in PSS.

INFORMED CONSENT

Operators must provide clients with an explanation of the procedure and information about any

risks associated with the procedure. The service provider must keep a record to document that the information was provided.

OPERATOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Wear gloves during service.
- Wash hands before putting gloves on and after taking them off.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke during service.
- Practice good personal hygiene.
- SWPH recommends that all operators be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

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SKIN PREPARATION

- Do not provide service to clients who have cuts, wounds, rashes or visible skin infections within 6 inches of the area that is being worked on.
- If hair removal is required, a single-use disposable razor is to be used.
- Prior to the procedure, apply skin antiseptic. Use soap and water to clean the area first if it is visibly soiled. Skin antiseptics include, but is not limited to,
 - o Povidone-iodine solution
 - o Isopropyl alcohol (50 - 91%)
 - o Ethyl alcohol (60 - 95%)
- If applicable, a topical local anesthetic can be used after applying a skin antiseptic.
- If a stencil is required, only stencil-transfer solutions are to be used. Avoid use of deodorant sticks, as they are not to be reused between clients.

POST-TREATMENT SKIN CARE

- Cover tattoos with individually packaged dressing or bandage intended for covering wounds. E.g., sterile gauze secured with hypoallergenic tape, or a clean dressing provided in a roll or individual package and intended for wound care or tattoo after care.
 - o Do not use dressings not intended for skin E.g., meat pads.
- Clients must be given verbal and written aftercare instructions which include:
 - o Clean hands immediately before touching the site;

- o Cover the modified area, where applicable, with a single-use dressing intended to cover wounds;
- o Expected healing time of the site;
- o Description of possible complications and their signs and symptoms;
- o Advice on how to deal with slight redness, pain, or swelling; and
- o Recommendation to consult with a health care provider within 24 hours if any signs of an infection develop following the procedure.

INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- All surfaces and equipment that are handled during the service or equipment that cannot be effectively disinfected after the service must be covered with single use plastic coverings (plastic sleeves or plastic wrap). Examples include clip cord, motor frame, tattoo bed, tattoo machine, cords, spray bottles, lights, etc.
- All sterilized instruments must remain in sterile packaging until ready to be used.
- Sterile items must be used prior to their expiration date. Any items that exceed their expiration date must be discarded (single-use) or reprocessed (re-usable items).

CLEANING, DISINFECTION AND STERILIZATION

Cleaning

- All instruments, equipment and surfaces that require cleaning, disinfection or sterilization **MUST** be completely disassembled first. Items must then be cleaned in warm water with soap or detergent.

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CLEANING, DISINFECTION AND STERILIZATION

Cleaning

- Linens must be laundered after use and there should be an adequate supply available.
- Routine cleaning of walls, floors, ceilings and surfaces are to be maintained.

Disinfection and Sterilization

- All Disinfectants must be made fresh daily or according to manufacturer’s instructions. All disinfectants must have a drug identification number (DIN) or a natural product number (NPN) issued by Health Canada.

LEVEL	WHEN TO USE	EXAMPLES
Low Level	Equipment and instruments or items that do not directly contact the client or contact only hair or intact skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables and chairs • Motor frame • Clip-cord, contact screws, service trays, spray bottles, tattoo machine and controls, and tube clamp*
Intermediate Level	Equipment, instruments, or items that are intended to contact only intact skin, but that may accidentally come into contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes or penetrate the skin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
High Level Disinfection	Any surfaces, equipment or tools that may come in contact with blood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Sterilization	Equipment and instruments or items that penetrate the skin or enter sterile tissue. Also, some other equipment with high risk of transmission if contaminated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reusable ink caps (e.g., metal ink caps) • Tattoo grips, tubes and tips

*If covered with a sheath/cover during use; if not reprocess with intermediate level disinfectant as long as it can be easily or adequately cleaned and disinfected between each use.

See [Disinfection Chart](#) for information on approved disinfectants and contact time.

See [Sterilization for Operators](#) fact sheet.

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WASTE DISPOSAL

- Discard leftover petroleum jelly, lotions or lubricating gels.
- Remove and throw out all plastic coverings after service.
- Throw out single-use tools/equipment after use.
- Throw out single-use sharps in an approved sharps container.
- Throw waste that has blood and/or body fluids on it in a leak-proof bag.
- Single-use sharps must be thrown out in an approved sharps container which meets the standards of Canadian Standards Association.
- Sharps containers are to be sealed and replaced when the contents reach the fill line marked on the container or when three-quarters full.

RECORD KEEPING

Client Records

- Before providing a personal service, the PSS operator or the person who will be providing the personal service must obtain and record the following information:
 - o Client's name and contact information
 - o Name of service provider

- o Record what service the client received
- o Record that the client was provided an explanation of the procedure and risks
- o Dates of the procedure
- o Lot numbers and expiry date of the pre-packaged sterile equipment

Accidental Blood or Body Fluid Exposures

- PSS are required record all accidental blood or body fluid exposures. Records must include information outlined in the **Accidental Blood Exposure Log**.

Record Retention

- Records must be kept onsite for one year. After the first year, the records must be retained and kept readily available in a secure location for at least two years.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact your area Public Health Inspector at **1-800-922-0096**.

MORE INFORMATION



Southwestern Public Health

St. Thomas Site

519-631-9900

Woodstock Site

519-421-9901

1-800-922-0096 | www.swpublichealth.ca