



Guidance for Operators: ELECTROLYSIS & LASER HAIR REMOVAL

HEALTH CONCERN: Electrolysis equipment can become contaminated with bacteria, fungi and viral blood-borne pathogens such as Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus, or Human immunodeficiency virus (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

Before providing services, the client must be provided 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.
- Practice good personal hygiene.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke during service.
- 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.
- Prior to the procedure, apply skin antiseptic. Skin antiseptics include, but isn't 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.

POST-TREATMENT SKIN CARE

- Clients must be given verbal and written aftercare instructions which must 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 The 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
 - o Recommendation to consult with a health care provider within 24 hours if any signs of an infection develop

INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

- Environmental surfaces and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected appropriately.
- Single use items must be discarded after use.
 - o Examples: cotton balls, swabs, dental lip rolls, wooden applicators etc.

- o Needles, lancets and disposable razors are single use only. They must be used and discarded in an approved sharps container immediately after use.
- o Single use items cannot be saved for use on the same client.
- Open sterile, pre-packaged needles and needle holder caps/tips right before service.
- All reusable electrolysis and laser hair removal components must be cleaned and then disinfected with the appropriate level of disinfection for the required contact time.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

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

Disinfection

- 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.
- Routine cleaning of walls, floors, ceilings and surfaces are to be maintained.

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LEVEL	WHEN TO USE	EXAMPLES
Low Level Disinfection	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">• Magnifying glass and arm• Rigid containers used to hold dirty equipment until reprocessing• Electrolysis electrodes and sponge covers• Client chairs, work surfaces etc.
Intermediate Level Disinfection	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">• Laser heads• Tips and wands• Cords, lamps, magnifying lamps etc.*• Tweezers used to remove hair from the hair follicle• UV goggles for multiple client use
High Level Disinfection	Any surfaces, equipment or tools that may come in contact with blood.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any equipment, instrument or item used to hold, manipulate or contact a sterile needle• Tweezers used to expose ingrown hairs

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

*Items that are handled during service require intermediate level disinfection between use. These items can be protected using non-absorbent, single-use covers that are changed between clients. If covered by a sheath during use, only low level disinfection is required between use.

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WASTE DISPOSAL

- Throw waste that has blood and/or body fluids on it in a leak-proof bag.
- Throw out single-use tools and equipment after use.
- 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 service, the PSS 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

High Level Disinfectants

- If using high level disinfectants, PSS are required to record information outlined in the [Disinfection Record Log](#).

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