

## Fact Sheet

# 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 body fluids on the instruments for an infection to occur. The following information is a supplement to the general operational requirements for personal service establishments.***

## Infection Prevention and Control Requirements

### **Hand Hygiene & Glove Use**

- Hand hygiene must be performed 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 completing the procedure and before touching clean surfaces.
- Single use disposable gloves should 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 the procedure.
- Remove 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 or in the service area.
- All supplies required for tattooing or micropigmentation should be assembled and set up immediately prior to starting the procedure.
- **Use only single use, disposable, sterile needles** and discard into an approved sharps container immediately after use.
- Open sterile, packaged equipment only when ready to begin procedure. If the sterile packaging has been opened or damaged, it must not be used.
- Use disposable razors for shaving tattoo area.

- Single use ink cups 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 into single use containers.
- Cover any work surfaces or items that cannot be disinfected during procedures (tattoo machine, spray bottles, cords) with disposable coverings (e.g. single use plastic wrap).

### **After Service**

- Cover tattooed area with a clean 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 an approved sharps container; puncture-resistant, leak-proof with a tight-fitting lid and properly labelled with a biological hazard sign.
- Ink cups, leftover ink and petroleum jelly should be 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.

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### **After Service cont.**

- 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 sheet 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 cup holders are to be high-level disinfected.
- Surfaces covered by plastic or other barriers should 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 Fluids Exposure**

- Provide client with verbal and written aftercare 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 on file 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 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
PROTECTION OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION**