

OPERATION PROCEDURES FOR BODY ART PRACTITIONERS

HANDWASHING

THIS IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING A PRACTITIONER CAN DO TO PREVENT DISEASE TRANSMISSION. All of our employees are trained in proper hand washing and proper glove donning. What good is a clean glove if your hands are dirty? We use approved antimicrobial soaps for washing between clients and hand sanitizers between glove changes... yeah, we are just that good.

GLOVES

Our gloves are checked and changed throughout all procedures. We only use powder free Nitrile gloves to prevent any latex allergic reactions.

STERILIZATION

Everything we use is single use even down to what we mark your piercing with. Our tattoo artists use disposable tubes, needles and ink caps. Our piercers use sterile implements when needed and process them through a 3 step process which ends in a sterilization cycle. All tattoo needles and piercing needles are properly sterilized and used once and then disposed of in the proper biohazard disposal container.

STUDIO SET-UP

It is important in your studio and set-up to be able to separate your clean from your dirty. For example it wouldn't be safe for us to hang our needles sharps container right above the chair we pierce you in. Barriers, organization, and well thought out plot plans have made our shop not only smooth running but safe. We keep our bio bins out of access of customers and we use metal step trash cans to insure spillage and accidental contact with the trash are virtually impossible. We also have a biohazard processing room that clients are not allow in where we process any contaminated tools or tubes.

PREPARATION OF WORK AREA AND EQUIPMENT FOR BODY PIERCING AND TATTOOING

- Bleeding
- Dispensing – pigments, creams, jelly etc.
- Tattooing
- Specific tattooing requirements

The same principles apply to all body art methods of tattooing, including cosmetic tattooing regardless of the type of premises in which the tattooing is undertaken.

- Cover surfaces that may need to be touched (for example, spray and ink bottles) with single-use plastic bags so only the nozzles are exposed. Cover light fittings and power pack controls with cling film.
- Dispense the required pigment, lubricating jelly, antiseptic cream and any other lotion (including solutions used to clean the skin during the tattooing process) into single-use containers using single-use spatulas.
- Place water to be used for rinsing between colors into a single-use cup.
- Place sufficient single-use wipes for one client in the area. Wipes must be stored where they cannot become contaminated.
- Open all sterile items (including tubes and needles attached to needle bars) in the presence of the client to show sterile instruments are being used. Check the chemical indicators for color change and, if satisfactory, then assemble the handpiece.
- The operator should document the chemical indicator results on the client sheet
- Any leftover pigments, creams, water and wipes must be immediately discarded after each client.
- Replace any sterile instruments or needles accidentally touched by the operator or contaminated in any other way, either before or during a treatment, with another sterile instrument or needle.
- Take care when inspecting needles for defects such as damaged or blunt points. Needles must never be tested for sharpness on the skin of the operator or client. Self-illuminating magnifying glasses are available to check needles for bluntness or barbs.
- Clean and sterilize non-sterilized needles before inspection, then re-clean and re-sterilize them before using them on a client.

SKIN PREPARATION

- Ensure the client's skin is clean and free from infection, sores or wounds on or around the tattoo site.
- If the tattoo area needs to be shaved, then use a new single-use safety razor for each client and immediately discard it into the sharps container.
- Disinfect the site where the procedure will be carried out.
- Use an antimicrobial lotion or plain liquid soap on the skin before the placement of a single-use stencil. Multi-use deodorants should never be used.
- Apply lubricating jelly to the tattoo site using a new single-use spatula for each client. If extra jelly is required, then use a new spatula; discard the spatula after each application. Never use gloves or bare fingers.
- Immediately discard any leftover detergent or lubricating jelly.

TATTOO/PERMANENT MAKEUP GENERAL PROCEDURE

Practitioners shall:

- Wash hands using antimicrobial or plain liquid soap and thoroughly pat dry before putting on single-use gloves.
- Always wear single-use gloves on both hands for each client and wear throughout the tattooing procedure.
- Tattoo an outline of the design on the skin.
- Change the needle assembly or hand piece after each client use.
- Tattoo the color or shade of the outline on the skin.
- Where possible, avoid contaminating the work area with the client's blood.
- Avoid cross-contamination between surfaces.
- When tattooing, do not eat, drink or smoke. If having to leave during the procedure (for example, to answer the phone or for a toilet break), then remove and dispose of gloves and wash and thoroughly pat dry hands. Before resuming tattooing, wash hands, thoroughly pat dry and put on new single-use gloves.
- If the client takes a break during the tattooing process, then cover the skin being tattooed with a dry clean dressing.
- Use pre-dispensed cleaning solution and single-use wipes to remove excess pigment and blood from the tattoo site. Dispose of wipes into the clinical and related waste container.
- When the tattoo is completed, clean the area, and then remove gloves and wash and dry hands, then re-glove (using single-use gloves).
- Remove antiseptic cream from a single-use container and apply to the treated area by means of a single-use spatula. Cover site with a sterile dressing.
- Remove gloves, and wash and dry hands.
- Take time to demonstrate to the client how to care for the tattoo to prevent infection, and provide the client with the same information in writing. Ensure the client has fully understood these instructions.
- Cleaning, disinfection and sterilization procedures for instruments
- All tattooing procedures are high risk for the possibility of contamination with blood and body fluids or substances.

BODY PIERCING GENERAL PROCEDURES

The potential for serious infection occurs during all body art practices. Each body artist must have a fully equipped and separate workstation. The area of the room/cubicle should be no less than 2.5 meters square. The floors, walls and doors should be made of a sealed, nonporous material. The use of sterile single-use gloves is encouraged when skin penetration procedures are being performed. The use of non-sterile single-use gloves is the minimum requirement if sterile gloves are not provided.

The body artist should:

- Wash their hands with antimicrobial soap and thoroughly pat dry before putting on single-use gloves
- Clean the area to be pierced with a broad-spectrum antimicrobial solution
- Mark the area with a nontoxic single-use marker
- If a clamp is to be used, apply the sterile clamp using a sterile rubber band to secure it
- Perform the piercing by pushing the sterile single-use needle through the skin (noting that it is important to follow the markings exactly)
- Insert sterile jewelry into the piercing and then close using sterile ring closing and circlip pliers. If at any stage the body artist needs to touch anything that has not been sterilized, then they should remove their gloves and wash and thoroughly pat dry hands. Before resuming the piercing, the body artist should again wash and thoroughly pat dry hands, and put on a new pair of single-use gloves. Ear piercing Ear piercings have been detailed because ears are the most commonly pierced area. The preferred method of piercing ears is the use of a single-use ear-piercing gun. The secondary option is the employment of an ear-piercing system that minimizes the risk of contaminating the gun. In these systems, a pre-sterilized single-use cartridge containing the stud and butterfly is inserted into the gun. No contact occurs between the gun and the ear, and the cartridge should be discarded into the clinical and related waste bin after the studs are inserted. All reusable piercing guns must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, with particular attention to the cartridge holder, to minimize the risk of spreading infection. Methods of ear piercing using a trocar and cannula or needle and cork are not recommended, due to the difficulty of sterilizing cork. Where these methods are used, all articles that penetrate the skin must be disposed of or cleaned and sterilized. Cork can be sterilized only by gamma irradiation or ethylene oxide gas. Strict care must be taken when handling ear-piercing equipment. Ear-piercing studs must be sterile at the time of use.
- Only use studs that have been taken from a sealed sterile package.
- Be familiar with the loading procedures. (Load all guns without touching the studs or the stud-holding devices on the gun.)
- Dispose of sterile single-use cartridges after use on each client. (The cartridge holder is also contaminated during use and therefore must be cleaned and disinfected between clients.)
- Do not use any stud packets that have been opened previously or that are split. The contents of these packs are no longer sterile and may cause infection if used for this purpose, although they can be sold in the same way that other studs and earrings are sold for general use.

Possible medical implications:

- Clients should be advised that the placement of some piercings/implants may hinder the delivery of required medical interventions. Be immediately discarded, and the hands washed thoroughly before a fresh pair of gloves is donned.
- Upon completion of a procedure, practitioners shall provide each patron Department-approved aftercare instructions for the care of the body art procedure site. The aftercare instructions shall contain the name, address, and phone number of the facility.
- The practitioner shall wear single-use medical gloves during set-up and cleaning, during disinfection and sterilization procedures, when processing contaminated instruments, when transporting sterilized instruments from the autoclave to designated storage space, and during any contact with a patron at the personal service station. Now, time for clean up!!!

DISINFECTION AND STERILIZATION PROCEDURES

Following client treatment, all work surfaces used, for example, procedure couches/chairs, solariums, benches and tables, should be washed with warm water and detergent, rinsed and dried using a clean lint-free single-use cloth. Additionally, at the end of each working day, wash all visibly soiled surfaces with warm water and antibacterial soap; rinse, then dry using a clean lint-free single-use cloth.

Practitioners shall:

- Put on fresh gloves for disinfection routine.
- Move in such a manner to avoid re-contamination of surfaces.
- Discard disposable items and remove from work area.
- Remove plastic barrier film (if used) and disinfect surface areas, drawer pulls, cabinetry, telephones, lamps, chairs, sinks, tables, chairs, floor area, and any other surfaces that may have become contaminated.
- Dispose of single-use lap cloths after each use.
- Place all contaminated single-use sharp instruments into a sharps container immediately after a skin-penetration procedure has been performed.
- Place all reusable skin penetration instruments or other reusable instruments contaminated with blood, into the container labeled “dirty instruments for cleaning and sterilization.”
- Place all reusable instruments from low- and medium-risk procedures into a container labeled “dirty instruments for cleaning.”
- Place the containers in the area set aside for cleaning.
- Do not store instruments or needles in chemical disinfectant either before or after cleaning, sterilization or thermal disinfection.
- Remove gloves, discard gloves, and wash hands.
- All reusable equipment, such as a marking pen, shall be nonporous and disinfected after each use. Non-spray wipes for surfaces and liquids for soaking jewelry are preferred over spray disinfectants, which may disperse pathogens into the air.
- Iodine, bacitracin, and other antiseptics shall be applied with single-use applicators. Applicators that have touched a client once may not be used to retrieve antiseptics, iodine, etc. from containers.
- For removal of bacitracin or other antibiotic solutions, blood, and other particles from a used, contaminated instrument (i.e. jewelry, forceps, pliers), cleansing with an ultrasonic cleaner, followed by a steam autoclave is required.
- Steam autoclave must be used on all equipment that may come in contact with the client or the jewelry (i.e. receiving tubes, rubber bands, insertion tapers, forceps, files, gauge wheels, pliers, etc.). Equipment shall be bagged, dated and sealed and then stored in a non-porous, dark, dry cool place. Instruments shall be autoclaved at a temperature of 273 degrees F under pressure of 20 PSI for 30minutes.
- Ready to wash hands again with warm water & antibacterial soap, then dried with disposable paper towel.
- Dispose of all used single-use items (such as applicators, paper toweling and protective coverings from surfaces into the related waste bin.
- Place used linen into a washable leak-proof receptacle with a close-fitting lid labeled ‘dirty linen’ and launder
- Remove and dispose of gloves in the related waste bin, then wash hands and thoroughly pat dry.

Care should be taken when handling sharp instruments to avoid potential sharps injuries!