

SC4: TATTOOING AND MICRO PIGMENTATION

DEFINITIONS

Tattooing

Is the process of marking the skin by inserting ink into the lower layers of the skin with a needle.

All micro-pigmentation, micro-blading or similar semi- permanent treatments are a form of tattooing and are therefore also covered by these conditions.

Temptooing and tattoo removal (non-laser) are also covered by these conditions.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. TATTOO ARTISTS

The Licence holder must ensure that tattoo artists have undergone a 2-year apprenticeship/training programme with an experienced tattooist before being permitted to provide tattoos at the premises. The Licence holder may provide training/apprenticeships at premises for new artists if they ensure trainees work under the supervision of an experienced tattooist. Records should be kept in relation to any training/apprenticeship in place.

Until such time as an externally verified tattooing qualification is offered, all tattooists will be required to demonstrate knowledge of infection control to the satisfaction of the Authorised Officer. Where Council is concerned that a tattooist does not have adequate infection control knowledge the tattooist may be required to complete a questionnaire on infection control. Any tattooist failing to satisfactorily complete the questionnaire will be required to undertake further training to improve knowledge.

2. AGE RESTRICTIONS

The Tattooing of Minors Act 1969 prohibits the tattooing of anyone in Great Britain under the age of 18 years.

3. CLIENT CONSULTATION

A relevant client consultation must be carried out at the time of a first visit and prior to any new artwork, filling or similar commencing. Proof of age must be included in this consultation. A thorough medical history in relation to the treatment being requested and full explanation of any possible contra-indications must be undertaken.

4. VISUAL ASSESSMENT

An assessment of the condition of the area to be tattooed must be carried out prior to commencing treatment. Where necessary notes/diagrams should be made regarding conditions, areas not to be treated.

Tattooing and similar must not be carried out on or within 10cms of an infected area of skin, a rash, cut or other wound.

5. RECORD KEEPING

Records must be kept for every client. The records must include details of medical history checks and steps taken to verify the age of the client including their date of birth and the type of identification provided. Records may be stored on paper or electronically. Records must be made available upon request from an Authorised Officer of the Council, such records must be produced within 3 days of any such request.

6. PERSONAL HYGIENE

Persons carrying out treatments must ensure that:-

- their hands are kept clean and washed immediately prior to carrying out a treatment,
- they maintain a high degree of personal cleanliness and wear suitable, clean and appropriate protective clothing,
- they do not smoke or consume food or drink during the course of a treatment.

Persons shall not administer treatments whilst afflicted by either a known or suspected ailment or being a carrier of a disease likely to be transmitted during treatment.

Persons carrying out treatments shall ensure that any open sores, cuts, boils, broken skin or other open wounds are effectively covered with waterproof impermeable dressings. If such cuts are on the hands gloves shall be worn over the waterproof dressings.

7. PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

(a) All staff must wear clean clothing when carrying out a procedure. If clothing becomes soiled it must be changed prior to next client. It is recommended that disposable plastic aprons are worn during procedures to provide additional protection.

(b) Tattooists (and anyone carrying out similar procedures) must wear disposable single use vinyl or non-latex gloves whilst carrying out the treatment. The integrity of the gloves must be checked throughout the treatment. New gloves must be worn for each client. Gloves must also be changed if there is a break in the treatment and non-sterile equipment is touched.

8. CLEANING AND STERILISATION

In addition to the cleaning and sterilisation requirements set out in Part II of the General Licence Conditions for all special treatment premises:-

(a) All surfaces that come into contact with staff equipment or clients must be disinfected daily.

(b) All needles/razors must be single use and disposable.

(c) Any surfaces used during treatments must be disinfected prior to use.

(d) Any treatment chair/ couches must be disinfected after each client.

(e) Any equipment that has been contaminated with blood however small must be cleaned and sterilised or safely disposed of.

9. BLOOD/ BODILY FLUID SPILLAGE

There must be a procedure for dealing with blood spillages. All employees must be made aware of the procedure.

A spillage kit must be available for cleaning up blood or other bodily fluids. The kit must include: -

- Bucket with a tight-fitting lid.
- 'Non-sterile', unpowdered latex gloves or vinyl gloves.
- Disposable plastic aprons.
- Disposable paper towels.
- Disposable cloths.
- Clinical waste bag.
- Small container of general-purpose detergent.
- Hypochlorite solution (e.g. Household bleach or Milton) or Sodium Dichloroisocyanurate compound (NaDCC) (e.g. Presept, Sanichlor). To comply with COSHH regulations this compound

should be stored in a lockable cupboard.

- Absorbent powder/granules e.g. Vernagel (absorbent crystals) to soak up the liquid content of the spillage. Alternatively, disposable paper towels can be used to soak up excess fluid.

10. SHARPS INJURY

There must be a procedure for dealing with needle/ sharps injuries. All employees must be made aware of the procedure.

11. USE OF ANAESTHETICS

Only tattooists who have successfully completed an appropriate course on use of topical anaesthetics are permitted to use them. Evidence of qualification must be available onsite. The use of anaesthetic injections is prohibited.

12. AFTERCARE

Appropriate aftercare advice must be provided following each treatment. This must include information on actions to take if any adverse conditions occur. Where possible this should be given in written form for the client to take away.

13. CIEH TOOLKIT

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in conjunction with Public Health England and the Tattoo and Piercing Industry Union have issued a Toolkit detailing safe practice with regard to hygienically undertaking tattoos and skin piercing. It is expected that practitioners adhere to the requirements and recommendation contained within this document. The document can be accessed via the CIEH webpage at <http://www.cieh.org/policy/default.aspx?id=47706>

NOTES

Hepatitis B Vaccinations

There are no vaccines for Hepatitis C or HIV therefore robust infection control practices must be in place at all times. However, it is also strongly recommended that all tattooists receive a full course of Hepatitis B vaccine. Data from the Health Protection Agency states where the client is infected with Hepatitis B and is classed as being highly infected, the risk of Hepatitis B infection following an injury that penetrates the skin is 1 person in 3.

Hepatitis vaccinations must be paid for by the employer. Where a tattooist refuses to get vaccinated it is recommended that the employer requires them to sign a disclaimer form. Records should be kept that demonstrate the vaccination status of all tattooists working at the premises.