

TATTOOING AND MICRO PIGMENTATION

DEFINITIONS

Tattooing

Is the process of permanently marking the skin by inserting ink into the lower layers of the skin with a needle. Micro-pigmentation or semi- permanent make up and microblading are a form of tattooing and therefore are covered by these conditions.

1. AGE RESTRICTIONS

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

2. Challenge 25 Policy

2.1. Any person wishing to receive a licensable treatment will need to provide proof of their age if they look under 25 .

2.2. Licencees must advertise this policy so that all clients are made aware that they may be challenged about their age if they look under 25.

2.3. Acceptable forms of ID are a photo driving licence, passport or the PASS hologram proof of age card.

2.4. Where a challenge is made, it must be recorded and proof of age also noted on the client record card.

3. CLIENT CONSULTATION

3.1. A full client consultation must be carried out at the time of a first visit and prior to any treatment. This must include a thorough medical history in relation to the treatment being requested and full explanation of any possible contra-indications.

3.2. Where any medical conditions exist the client must confirm to the therapist that they have taken advice from their GP regarding the treatment before any treatment can be commenced.

4. VISUAL ASSESSMENT

4.1. 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.

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

5. RECORD KEEPING

- 5.1. Records must be kept for every client (including walk-ins/one offs). 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 (where appropriate). This record must be signed by the client as a declaration of agreement to proceeding with the treatment having been explained and understanding any associated risks.

6. PERSONAL HYGIENE

- 6.1. 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.

- 6.2. 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.

- 6.3. 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

- 7.1. All staff must wear clean clothing when tattooing. If clothing becomes soiled it must be changed prior to next client.
- 7.2. Tattooists 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 used for each client and/or if there is a break in the treatment and non-sterile equipment is touched.

8. EQUIPMENT

- 8.1. Needles, pigment caps, stencils, razors and wooden spatulas are single use only and shall be disposed of as hazardous waste after use

9. CLEANING AND STERILISATION

9.1. In addition to the General Licence Conditions for all special treatment premises:-

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

9.1.2. All needles/razors and pigment caps must be single use and disposable.

9.1.3. Any surfaces used during treatments must be disinfected prior to use.

9.1.4. Any treatment chair/ couches must be disinfected after each client.

9.1.5. Tattoo motors and clip cords shall be covered with clear plastic during a tattoo and changed between clients

9.1.6. Elastic bands used on the motors shall be changed between clients

9.1.7. Any equipment that has been contaminated with blood however small must be cleaned and sterilized or safely disposed of.

9.1.8. Procedures for the decontamination, disinfection and sterilisation of equipment shall be provided at the premises where necessary.

9.2. Glass bead sterilisers; UV light boxes; hot air ovens and water boilers **must not** be used for sterilisation purposes.

9.3. Autoclaves must be used for sterilization of reusable equipment such as grips. This must be strictly in accordance with manufacturers instruction and with the current version of Medical Devices Agency MDA DB2002 (6) MDA DB9804. Checking and maintenance must be carried out in accordance with HTM 2010.

9.4. Where chemicals are used to achieve sterilisation the licensee is responsible for having documented evidence that the chemical used is fit for purpose and is used accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

9.5. Equipment and furniture must be cleaned, disinfected and/or sterilised to an appropriate level depending upon their use. For clarification definitions of cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation are provided below:-

Cleaning- Cleaning is a process that removes foreign material (e.g. soil, organic material, micro-organisms) from an object. Detergents such as washing up liquid and multi-purpose cleaners are commonly used for cleaning.

Disinfection- Disinfection is a process that reduces the number of pathogenic

microorganisms, but not necessarily bacterial spores, from inanimate objects or skin, to a level which is not harmful to health. Commonly used disinfectants include chlorine bleach and products labelled as anti-bacterial.

Sterilisation- Sterilisation is a process that destroys all microorganisms including bacterial spores. The only way body art practitioners can achieve this is via steam sterilisation i.e. use of an autoclave. Pressure cookers are not suitable for body art instrument sterilisation as they cannot automatically monitor the sterilisation process to ensure that all parameters are met. Baby bottle steam sterilisers do not reach sufficient temperatures and therefore are not suitable for body art instrument sterilization. Bench-top sterilisers or transportable sterilisers must conform to the standard BS EN 13060.

10. BLOOD/ BODILY FLUID SPILLAGE

10.1. There must be a written procedure for dealing with blood spillages.

10.2. All staff must be made aware of the procedure. The procedure must be available onsite at all times for audit by an authorised Officer.

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

- a) Bucket with a tight fitting lid.
- b) 'Non-sterile', unpowdered latex gloves or vinyl gloves.
- c) Disposable plastic aprons.
- d) Disposable paper towels.
- e) Disposable cloths.
- f) Clinical waste bag.
- g) Small container of general-purpose detergent.
- h) Hypochlorite solution (e.g. Household bleach or Milton) or Sodium Dichloroisocyanurate compound (NaDCC) (e.g. Presept, Sanichlor) – to comply with COSHH 1988. Note that this compound must be stored in a lockable cupboard.
- i) 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.

11. SHARPS INJURY

11.1. There must be a written procedure for dealing with needle/ sharps injuries.

11.2. All staff must be made aware of the procedure. The procedure must be available

onsite at all times for audit by an Authorised Officer.

12. USE OF ANAESTHETICS

- 12.1. 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.

13. TATTOO ARTISTS

- 13.1. Tattoo artists must have undergone an apprenticeship (at least 2 years) with an experienced tattooist. 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.
- 13.2. Only persons listed on premises licence are permitted to carry out tattooing or micro pigmentation.

14. AFTERCARE

- 14.1. 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 orally and in written form for the client to take away.

15. CIEH TOOLKIT

- 15.1. 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. Practitioners must 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/Tattooing_and_body_piercing_guidance_toolkit.htm
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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.