

## **SC4: 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 is a form of tattooing and therefore is covered by these conditions.

Temptooing and tattoo removal (also see conditions for use of laser where applicable) are also covered by these conditions.

#### **1. AGE RESTRICTIONS**

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

#### **2. CLIENT CONSULTATION**

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.

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.

#### **3. 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 must not be carried out on or within 10cms of an infected area of skin, a rash, cut or other wound.

#### **4. RECORD KEEPING**

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 either the client as a declaration of agreement to proceeding with the treatment having been explained and understanding any associated risks.

#### **5. 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.

## **6. PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**

(a) All staff must wear clean clothing when tattooing. If clothing becomes soiled it must be changed prior to next client.

(b) 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.

## **7. CLEANING AND STERILISATION**

In addition to 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 sterilized or safely disposed of.

For information of the level of disinfection required for different furniture and equipment see General Terms and Conditions, Part II, Item 23.

## **8. BLOOD/ BODILY FLUID SPILLAGE**

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

(b) All staff must be made aware of the procedure. The procedure must be available onsite at all times for audit by Authorised Officer.

(c) 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 1988. Note that 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.

## **9. SHARPS INJURY**

- (a) There must be a written procedure for dealing with needle/ sharps injuries.
- (b) All staff must be made aware of the procedure. The procedure must be available onsite at all times for audit by Authorised Officer.

## **10. 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.

## **11. TATTOO ARTISTS**

- (a) Tattoo artists must have undergone an apprenticeship 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.

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 before they can be listed as a tattooist on the premises licence.

- (b) Only persons listed on premises licence are permitted to carry out tattooing or micro pigmentation.

## **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 orally and 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.