



Northern  
Territory  
Government

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# Public and Environmental Health Guidelines for Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy and Body Art

Department of Health is a Smoke Free Workplace

## Disclaimer

These Guidelines reflect the current state of infection control and communicable disease transmission knowledge, and while every effort has been made to ensure their accuracy, operators should be aware that they could be altered in the future to reflect changes in knowledge concerning transmission of disease.

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## Acknowledgements

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- Government of Australian Capital Territory, ACT Health;
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## 1.0 Introduction

The Public and Environmental Health Guidelines for Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy and Body Art seek to reflect national best practice in the operation of hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art activities and provide a flexible approach to the public health challenges in these industries in the Northern Territory (NT).

The Department of Health (DoH) has worked in partnership with industry, business and other stakeholders in the development of these Guidelines in order to promote safe, healthy and hygienic work practices and working environments in the hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art industries.

The Guidelines are prepared on a risk assessment basis, which acknowledges three factors that are important public health determinants in the transmission of infectious disease:

- The operator's technique;
- The equipment used by the operator; and
- The structure and condition of the premises where work is undertaken.

These Guidelines apply to operators who undertake hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art.

The provisions contained in these Guidelines do not remove the need to comply with other laws of the Northern Territory specific to the operation of hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art businesses.

### 1.1 Purpose

These Guidelines have been prepared to enable proprietors of businesses where hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art procedures are conducted to ensure their premises are designed, constructed, operated and maintained to consistently high public and environmental health standards, by minimising the risk of transmitting infectious diseases, injury and other health-related complaints associated with these industries.

### 1.2 Target Audience

These Guidelines are primarily aimed at operators of premises conducting hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art procedures, together with builders, designers and Northern Territory Government agencies.

These Guidelines apply to the following types of procedures in the Northern Territory:

- hairdressing;
- beauty therapy; and
- body art.

These Guidelines do not apply to medical activities such as those undertaken by:

- a health practitioner registered with the Australian Health Practitioners Registration Authority (including Chinese Medicine Practitioners); and
- persons acting under the direction or supervision of a health practitioner.

However, if a health practitioner operates a business that is not covered within the "normal" course of his/her profession; these Guidelines would then apply to that operation.

### 1.3 Objectives

The objectives of these Guidelines are to:

- meet community expectations of health standards for these activities;
- provide guidance to maintain premises and equipment in a hygienic condition to create a safe environment;
- provide guidance to operators on how to undertake procedures in a safe manner and take reasonable infection control precautions;
- enable proprietors, designers, developers and the like, to ensure design criteria are met which provides an acceptable standard of hygiene and safety for operators and clients;
- minimise the risk of transmitting blood borne infectious diseases, such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV); and
- minimise the risk of transmitting infections e.g. fungal, bacterial.

### 1.4 Definitions

**Antiseptics** are substances capable of destroying or preventing the growth of most micro-organisms under prescribed conditions of use and are used specifically for application to living tissue, such as skin.

**Aseptic technique** is designed to prevent the transfer of micro-organisms, thereby reducing the risk of infection. This includes non-touch technique, sterilisation of instruments and skin disinfection.

**Australian Standards** are published documents which sets out technical specifications or other criteria necessary to ensure that a material or method will consistently achieve its intended outcome

**Authorised Officer** means a person appointed by the Chief Health Officer under NT Public and Environmental Health Act and regulations.

**Beauty therapy** means an activity intended to maintain, alter or enhance a person's appearance for payment or reward, but does not involve a surgical or medical procedure undertaken by a health practitioner registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.

*Examples of beauty therapy:*

*Treatment of the face or body, the application of cosmetics, manicure or pedicure, epilation, the application of semi-permanent makeup or cosmetic tattooing.*

**Blood-borne diseases** include Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) for the purpose of these Guidelines.

**Body Art** means an activity intended to decorate or adorn a person's appearance for payment or reward, but does not involve a surgical or medical procedure.

*Examples of body art:*

*Tattooing, ear piercing or body modification.*

**Body substance** includes any human bodily secretion or substance other than blood

**Cleaning** is the removal of visible dirt and stains and the reduction in number of micro-organisms from a surface by a process such as washing in detergent and water without prior processing.

**Cross-contamination** is the transfer of micro-organisms from a dirty item or surface to an item or surface which is clean.

**Detergents** are any substances which assist in the cleaning process when added to water or another liquid.

**Disinfectants** are agents intended to destroy or remove pathogenic micro-organisms but do not usually destroy bacterial spores.

**Disinfection** is the inactivation of non-spore forming organisms using either thermal (heat and water) or chemical means.

**Electrolysis** involves the insertion of a sterilised needle into the individual hair follicles to the root. An electric impulse is passed through the needle to the root area to aid in the removal of hair.

**Hairdressing** is any activity, not being a surgical or medical procedure, intended to maintain, alter or enhance a person's appearance in relation to their facial or scalp hair including by cutting, trimming, removing, colouring, treating or shaving the hair for payment or reward.

**Hepatitis B** can be transmitted by infected blood, such as that found on needles used in skin penetration procedures as well as through unprotected sex with an infected person. A safe effective vaccine is available.

**Hepatitis C** is the most common blood borne virus spread by contaminated instruments. At this stage, there is no preventative vaccine.

**Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)** is the virus that results in AIDS. It can be transmitted via blood through used needles in skin penetration procedures as well as through unprotected sex with an infected person. At present there is no vaccine against HIV/AIDS and no cure. Safe and hygienic practices are the best prevention.

**Home-Based Operations** are business operations that are conducted at the home or residence of the operator.

**Infection Control Procedures** are methods that should be followed to eliminate or minimise the risk of transmission of infectious diseases.

**Lancing** involves treatments such as the removal of blackheads, pimples and ingrown hairs, by penetrating the skin using sharp equipment such as a lance.

**Mobile operations** are those businesses that travel to the client's residence such as home, business, nursing home or hospital and include businesses that operate from a caravan or other vehicle.

**Mucous membranes** are thin sheets of tissue that line various openings of the body, for example, the mouth, nose or genitals.

**National Construction Code** means the National Construction Code of Australia and comprises the Building Code of Australia (BCA), Volumes One and Two; and the Plumbing Code of Australia (PCA), as Volume Three

**Non-medical body modification** includes any other activity, not being a surgical or medical procedure, involving piercing, cutting, scarring, branding, scraping, puncturing or tearing of their skin or mucous membrane using an instrument to decorate or adorn a person's appearance. For example, but not limited to: scarification (the cutting of a person's skin to encourage the production of scar tissue); tongue splitting (the cutting of a human tongue or any part of a human tongue into 2 or more parts for non-medical purposes); three-dimensional art such as beading or devil's horns; braiding; branding (the process by which a mark, symbol or pattern is, by burning or cauterizing, applied to a person's skin); and implantation (the implanting of an object beneath the skin).



**Operator** is defined as any person who performs any hairdressing, beauty therapy or body art procedure for the purposes of these Guidelines.

**Piercing** is defined as the piercing of holes in parts of the body for the purpose of inserting pre-sterile jewellery or other adornments in the opening.

**Place** is defined as any premises or vehicle, thereby including home-based operations or mobile operations where the operator visits the client's residence.

**Premises** are defined as any premises upon which a business is conducted and includes purpose designed premises or premises fitted out specifically for the type(s) of operation carried out.

*This includes:*

- *a house or building or part of a house or building with the grounds, etc., belonging to it;*
- *a structure or part of a structure whether temporary or permanent; and*
- *vehicles.*

**Proprietor** means a person who is the owner of the business, or the person carrying on the business procedures on behalf of the owner, or if that person cannot be identified, the person in charge of the premises.

**Sharps** are any items designed to pierce, cut, puncture, tear or shave the skin, mucous membrane or conjunctiva of the eye.

**Sharps Containers** are clearly labelled, puncture resistant containers that conform to Australian Code of Practice AS 4031, Non reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in health care areas.

**Skin penetration** means any process which involves intentional non-medical piercing, cutting, scarring, branding, scraping, puncturing, tearing or penetration of the skin, mucous membrane or conjunctiva of the eye using an instrument and includes waxing.

**Standard Precautions** are work practices which assume that all blood and body substances are potential sources of infection. Such practices involve the use of safe procedures and protective barriers at all times to ensure that operators will have maximum protection from infections.

**Sterilising** is the process which kills all micro-organisms including spores. The most effective method of sterilisation is the application of moist heat under pressure for a specific time and pressure, as occurs in an autoclave.

**Tattooing** means the puncturing of the skin with a needle to introduce coloured pigment leaving a permanent mark or design.

## 2.0 Legislation and Standards

### 2.1 Legislation

The Public and Environmental Health Regulations 2014 set out the requirements that proprietors of hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art businesses must observe.

- Any instrument used for penetrating the skin must be sterile at the time of use.
- Any instrument that has penetrated the skin or is contaminated with blood or body fluids/substances must be either disposed of immediately after use or cleaned and sterilised before being used on another person.
- Proprietors must ensure that staff have the necessary skills and knowledge in relation to infection control to be able to safely carry out their work role.
- Containers for the collection of used sharps instruments must be provided in accordance with Australian Standards.
- Proprietors must ensure that staff have the appropriate skills and knowledge in relation to the use of sterilisation equipment and procedures.
- Hand washing facilities that are easily accessible by all staff must be provided at all registered premises.
- Handwashing facilities must be provided in each area where skin penetration occurs.
- All equipment must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
- Premises must be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

### 2.2 Documents Adopted By Reference

#### Documents

- Australian Immunisation Handbook
- Commonwealth of Australia National Occupational Health & Safety Commission National Code of Practice for the Control of Work-related Exposure to Hepatitis and HIV (Blood-borne) Viruses
- National Construction Code
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare

#### Australian and New Zealand Standards

- AS 4187-1994 Standard for cleaning disinfecting and sterilising
- AS/NZS 4815:2006 Office-based health care facilities not involved in complex patient procedures and processes
- AS 2182 Sterilisers - Steam - Portable
- AS 2487 Dry Heat Sterilisers (hot air type)
- AS 1680.2.0, Interior Lighting - Recommendations for Specific Tasks and Interiors
- AS 4031, Non-reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in health care areas
- AS/NZS 4815:2006 Office-based health care facilities not involved in complex patient procedures and processes – Cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising reusable medical and surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of the associated environment

**Note:** Northern Territory legislation and supporting documents, and the Australian and New Zealand Codes of Practice are widely referenced in these Guidelines. Only their most recent version and amendments are to be used as source documents.

## 3.0 General Requirements

### 3.1 Public Health Registration

All Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy and Body Art Businesses, including mobile operations, are required to be a Registered Business within the terms of the *Public and Environmental Health Regulations*. Where the operation is under one Business Name and Operator the business will be required to pay only one Registration fee whichever is the greater.

Public Health Registration fees are not transferable. In the event a Registered business is sold, the new proprietor must apply for a new Public Health Registration.

### 3.2 Record Keeping

Operators should keep up to date records of clients' appointments and the details of the procedures performed, to assist in disease investigation and control if an infectious disease outbreak occurs. This is particularly important for beauty therapy and body art procedures which penetrate the skin.

These records should be made available for view during an inspection by an authorised officer.

### 3.3 Serving of Food and Drinks

Commercial businesses that serve non-alcoholic complimentary beverages (such as tea, coffee and soft drinks) and/or non-hazardous, pre-packaged, ready to eat food (such as biscuits) for the purpose of customer comfort are exempt from the registration provisions of the *NT Food Act*. To avoid the likelihood of contamination these drinks and food should be stored separately from hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art supplies and refrigerated as necessary.

Glasses, cups and other utensils used to serve these drinks and food must be washed thoroughly between use at a separate sink to that used for cleaning and disinfection. If disposable plates, cups and cutlery are used in the preparation and service of non-alcoholic beverages and pre-packaged, ready to eat foods an additional sink will not be required.

If businesses provide, either free of charge or offer for sale, other types of food and/or alcoholic beverages they must fully comply with the *NT Food Act* including the need to be registered as a food business.

### 3.4 Before and After Treatment Advice

Operators are expected to take reasonable steps to ensure that it is appropriate for the client to receive the treatment requested.

The reasonable steps will depend on the procedure which will be undertaken.

As an example, prior to any waxing procedure, patch testing should be performed and the client should fully complete a comprehensive written questionnaire. This will assist the

operator in assessing the appropriateness of the client to undergo the procedure at that point in time e.g. no contra-indications. Whatever the treatment being performed, all clients should be fully informed of what to expect before, during and after treatment.

After every treatment is performed, clients should be provided with after care advice which at a minimum outlines:

- what to expect after receiving the treatment;
- the types of after care products which can be used; and
- who to contact in the event of a health concern after treatment is received.

### **3.5 Mobile and Home Based Operators**

Mobile operators that travel to the client's residence such as home, business, nursing home or hospital and provide hairdressing or beauty therapy services must meet the same requirements as commercial hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art businesses including ensuring that they have access to a wash hand basin, soap and paper towels and a sink, both with hot and cold running water. Mobile operators must have facilities to adequately store all clean and used equipment, linen and waste products safely in separate containers before and after use and while in transit. Due to the high risk of infection, treatments involving skin penetration cannot be conducted by mobile operators at a client's residence.

Mobile operators who operate from fully equipped vans or caravans which have been approved by an authorised officer may provide treatments involving skin penetration.

Home based operators must meet the same requirements as commercial hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art businesses, as detailed in these guidelines and the *Public and Environmental Health Regulations*.

## 4.0 Standard Precautions

Standard precautions against exposure to blood or body substances should be used during all hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art procedures.

Standard precautions include:

- good hygiene practices;
- good procedural technique;
- good working environments which can be easily cleaned;
- good cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising practices;
- washing and drying hands before and after client contact;
- appropriate waste management;
- the use of protective barriers such as gloves, gowns etc. when needed; and
- appropriate handling and disposal of sharps and other contaminated materials.

Regardless of the source, any material with blood or body substances should be treated as potentially infectious and standard precautions should be used.

Standard precautions are intended to prevent infection by the following routes:

- percutaneous (e.g. cut);
- parenteral (e.g. injection);
- mucous membrane (e.g. a splash onto the mouth);
- conjunctival (e.g. a spray into the eye); and
- non-intact skin (e.g. contamination of a cut on the hand).

### 4.1 Hand Washing

Hand washing is the first step in infection control.

For routine hand washing, hands shall be washed with soap and water for a minimum of 15 – 20 seconds. Note: an antimicrobial soap solution is not necessary for routine hand washing. Hands should be dried thoroughly using disposable paper towels.

At a minimum, hands should be washed:

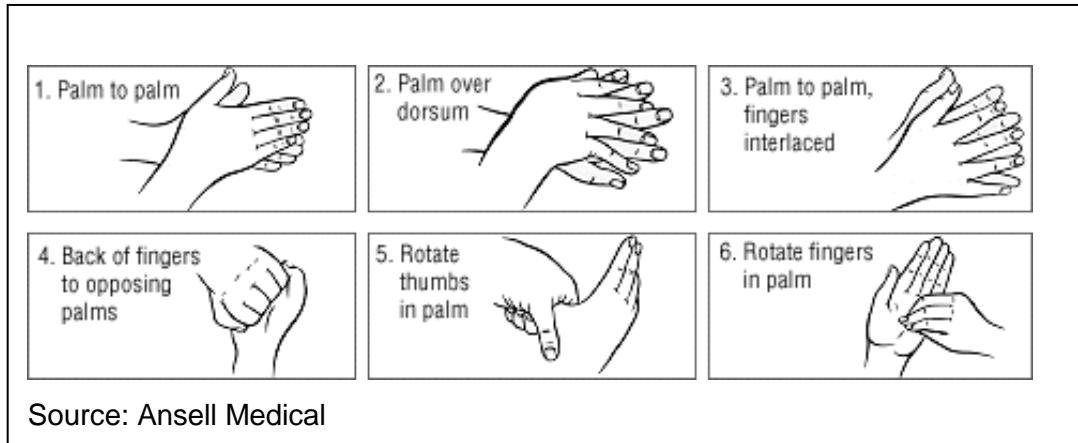
- before and after contact with each client;
- before and after gloves are used;
- after going to the toilet;
- before and after eating or smoking; and
- after touching any potentially contaminated objects.

Cuts and abrasions on hands should be covered with a water resistant occlusive dressing which should be changed as necessary or when the dressing becomes soiled.

Operators with weeping cuts, abrasions or dermatitis should not come into direct contact with clients.

## 4.2 Procedural Handwash

A procedural handwash is required for all beauty therapy or body art procedures which penetrate the skin. The recommended hand washing procedure, as detailed in AS/NZS 4815:2006, is as follows:



Picture 1: Procedural Hand Wash

Steps 2 - 4 should be repeated for the other hand. The wrists and the lower part of the lower arm (just above the wrist) should be included as part of this hand wash.

Hands or skin surfaces which have come into contact with blood or body substances should immediately or as soon as possible after contamination be washed.

Operators should use one of the following antimicrobial soap solutions when performing a procedural hand wash:

- aqueous 2% chlorhexidine-based solution;
- aqueous 4% chlorhexidine-based solution; or
- aqueous povidone-iodine.

People with an allergy to the chlorhexidine or povidone-iodine solutions should use a triclosan 2% solution.

## 4.3 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Operators should wear clean washable clothing when undertaking hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art procedures.

Any Personal Protective Equipment provided for operators to use should comply with the Australian Standards.

### Gloves

Hands should be washed thoroughly before putting on gloves and again following glove removal.

The operator should wear single use gloves during any beauty therapy or body art procedure which penetrates the skin and where there is reasonable likelihood of exposure to blood or other body substances. Sterile gloves should be used if direct contact with the penetrating surface of sterile instruments will occur during the procedure.

The gloves should be disposed of immediately after the procedure is completed to an infectious waste receptacle.

Gloves should be changed when performing separate and distinct procedures on the same client to avoid cross contamination.

Gloves should be changed between each client to avoid cross contamination.

Some people (operators or clients) may be allergic to latex gloves. If this is the case, single-use gloves made from other material should be used, for example, neoprene or nitrile.

### **Gowns**

Gowns and/or disposable plastic aprons should be worn where there is a reasonable likelihood of clothing being splashed with blood or other bodily fluid.

Gowns and/or disposable plastic aprons should comply with AS 3789.2 and AS 3789.3

### **Other Personal Protective Equipment**

Masks are to comply with AS 4381.

Eyewear is to comply with AS/NZS 1337.

It is recommended that face protection, eye protection or masks be worn when performing any procedure that may cause splash or spray of blood or other bodily fluid.

## **4.4 Handling and Disposal of Sharps**

Sharps represent the major cause of accidents involving potential exposure to blood-borne diseases.

Operators should at all times handle sharps with care in order to minimise injury to:

- themselves;
- clients; and
- persons involved in the collection or disposal of sharps containers.

Operators using sharps are responsible for their management and disposal.

All sharps should be placed in an appropriate container when not in use.

Contaminated sharps should not be passed from the hand of one operator to another, and handling should be kept to a minimum.

Needles should **not** be removed from disposable syringes for disposal, purposely broken or otherwise manipulated by hand except when the removal of the needle is technically necessary; or when performing procedures where needles should be bent. Needles should be bent only when required prior to contamination with blood or any body substance.

All used sharps should be placed in a designated puncture resistant container that complies with either Australian Standard *AS 4031 Non reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in health care areas* or *AS 4031-1992 (and amendments) Non reusable containers for the collection of sharp medical items used in health care areas..*

Sharps should be discarded immediately after the skin penetration procedure is completed at the point-of-use.

Operators need to be careful during the disposal of sharps to prevent the potential transmission of blood borne diseases by needle stick injury.

Sharps containers should be readily accessible by operators to minimise the risks associated with carriage of sharps.

Sharps containers should not be filled above the mark that indicates the bin is three-quarters full.

Sharps containers should not be accessible to clients.

You should appropriately dispose of sharps containers either through:

- a Northern Territory Needle and Syringe Disposal Site; or
- an arrangement with a licensed waste disposal contractor.

#### 4.5 Needle Stick Injuries

Any operator or client who receives a needle-stick injury (i.e. penetration of their skin with an object that has penetrated another person's skin) should:

- wash the affected area well with soap and running water;
- as necessary, cover the wound with a sterile dressing;
- report the incident to the manager or owner of the business; and
- consult a medical practitioner as soon as possible to determine whether any tests may be required.

Further advice on the prevention or treatment of needle-stick injuries can be obtained from the Centre for Disease Control, DoH.

#### 4.6 Blood or Body Substance Spills

The NHMRC *Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare* recommends that spills of blood or other potentially infectious materials (for example, body substances) should be promptly cleaned as follows:

- wear utility gloves and other PPE appropriate to the task;
- confine and contain spill, clean visible matter with disposable absorbent material; and
- clean the spill area with a cloth or paper towels using detergent solution.

The NHMRC *Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare* also recommends that:

- use of chemical disinfectants such as sodium hypochlorite should be based on assessment of risk of transmission of infectious agents from that spill; and
- a spill kit should be readily available in each clinical area and should include a scoop and scraper, single-use gloves, protective apron, surgical mask and eye protection, absorbent agent, clinical waste bags and ties, and detergent. All parts should be disposable to ensure that cross-contamination does not occur.

All used cleaning materials should be disposed of in the appropriate waste container.



## 5.0 Safe Work Environment

### Duty of Care

A person conducting a business has a duty to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that workers, clients and others entering the premises are not exposed to risks to health or safety. This involves ensuring that:

- staff are adequately trained, including in safe handling of chemicals, hygiene and infection control;
- facilities and equipment, including personal protective equipment are properly maintained; and
- the workplace is clean, well maintained and designed to minimise potential hazards, such as exposure to chemicals, sharps and other clinical and related waste.

**Note:** Further information on Northern Territory's Work Health and Safety legislation can be found at: <http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/>

### Workers Skills and Knowledge – Recommendations

Workers should ensure that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to safely undertake their work activities.

It is strongly recommended that **hairdressers**, at a minimum, undertake *SIHHOHS201A Apply salon safety procedures* or equivalent.

Further information available at: <http://training.gov.au/Training/Details/SIHHOHS201A>

It is strongly recommended that **nail salon workers**, at a minimum, undertake *SIBBNLS202A Provide manicure and pedicure services* or equivalent.

Further information available at: <http://training.gov.au/Training/Details/SIBBNLS202A>

It is strongly recommended that **wax workers**, at a minimum, undertake *SIBBHRS301A Perform waxing treatments* or equivalent.

Further information available at: <http://training.gov.au/Training/Details/SIBBHRS301A>

It is strongly recommended that **beauty therapists** and **body artists**, at a minimum, undertake *HLTIN402C Maintain infection control standards in office practice settings* or equivalent.

Further information available at: <http://training.gov.au/Training/Details/HLTIN402C>

### First Aid

Persons conducting a business should:

- provide and maintain first aid equipment and ensure each worker at the workplace has access to the equipment;
- ensure access to facilities for the administration of first aid;
- ensure that an adequate number of workers are trained to administer first aid at the workplace or that workers have access to an adequate number of other people who have been trained to administer first aid
- recommend that workers who are unwell seek medical advice as soon as reasonably practicable.

**Note:** Further information on workplace first aid requirements is accessible from: [http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/Publications/Code%20of%20Practice/first\\_aid\\_cop.pdf](http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au/Publications/Code%20of%20Practice/first_aid_cop.pdf)

### **Vaccinations**

The Australian Immunisation Handbook recommends that all workers directly involved in the handling of human blood or tissue, for example, tattooists and body-piercers, be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

DoH also recommends that beauty therapists and hairdressers who undertake activities which penetrate the skin, or may unintentionally penetrate the skin be vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

### **Footwear**

It is recommended that closed in footwear be worn to protect against accidental injury from dropped equipment and needle stick injuries.

### **Smoking**

Areas where smoking is permitted are restricted. Operators need to comply with the *Tobacco Control Act and Regulations*.

**Note:** Further information on Northern Territory's Tobacco legislation can be found at: <http://www.health.nt.gov.au/>

## 6.0 Disinfection and Sterilisation

There is a potential for serious infection to occur during hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art procedures which may or may not deliberately penetrate the skin. Instruments may become contaminated by infected blood or other body substances and the transmission of viruses such as Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV is possible.

By implementing appropriate infection prevention procedures, infectious disease transmission can be eliminated or minimised. To achieve this, operators need to understand the differences between cleaning, disinfecting and sterilising.

It is critical that they know when an item should be sterilised before use and when it should be simply disinfected.

***The person at risk may be the client or the operator.***

### 6.1 Disinfecting Non-Penetrating Equipment

Disinfection is a process that reduces the number of micro-organisms to a level where infection is unlikely to occur. All non-skin penetrating equipment used for hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art procedures should be cleaned and disinfected. This helps to reduce the risk of potential cross-contamination.

#### Cleaning Prior to Disinfecting

Cleaning is vital prior to disinfecting utensils, as any build-up of organic material (hair, grease etc.) will prevent the disinfectant from working effectively.

All reusable equipment should be cleaned after it has been used.

Instruments that are able to be immersed in water should be cleaned in the following manner:

- 1) WASHING in clean water with soap or a suitable detergent at the temperature recommended by the manufacturer.
- 2) RINSING in clean water.
- 3) DRYING with a clean cloth.

#### Disinfection

The procedure used for disinfecting depends on the type of disinfectant and instrument. It is therefore important that the manufacturer's instructions are followed in relation to the dilution of the disinfectant and the contact or immersion time required. Disinfectants should not be used past their shelf life.

Chemicals that are appropriate for disinfecting utensils include:

- Alcohol, ethyl 70%
- Alcohol, isopropyl 70%
- Hospital Grade Disinfectant
- Sodium Hypochlorite 1%

All disinfecting immersion containers should be changed daily and scrubbed out to remove any build-up of organic matter that will reduce the effectiveness of the disinfectant.

Electric Clippers and other electrical items should not be immersed in water. Cleaning and disinfection should instead occur by wiping them with a alcohol impregnated cotton pad to remove all residual matter, then spraying or wiping them with an appropriate alcohol based disinfectant.

Glutaraldehyde is not a recommended disinfectant, due to its hazardous and corrosive nature.

All items such as combs, brushes, scissors, clippers, manicuring and pedicuring instruments and make-up equipment should be cleaned and disinfected between clients, and operators should have enough cleaned and disinfected equipment to allow for the busier times.

New single-use disposable razor blades should be used for each person, and used blades should be placed in a sharps container.

If a reusable cut-throat razor is used, the blade should be disposed of in a sharps container immediately after use. The blade handle should then be cleaned and disinfected before reuse. A new single use razor blade can then be attached to the handle.

Ultraviolet cabinets **do not** disinfect or sterilise items as the radiation does not penetrate to all surfaces of the articles exposed. They should only be used for storage of clean and disinfected items.

Items should be processed in accordance with the ultraviolet cabinet manufacturer's instructions and AS/NZS 4815:2006.

## 6.2 Sterilisation

Sterilisation is a process used to destroy all microorganisms. Instruments must be processed under controlled conditions to be rendered sterile.

The proprietor of a business conducting beauty therapy or body art procedures which intentionally penetrate the skin must ensure that an instrument intended to be used for skin penetration is sterile at the time of use.

Items that are required to be **sterile** immediately prior to use are those in which the skin will be pierced or penetrated such as tattoo needles, ear piercing studs, cuticle clippers, metal nail files (if they cause skin abrasions), electrolysis needles or acupuncture needles and their associated devices (for example, tattooing gun needle bar and/or nozzle, tattoo machine head).

***If a non-skin penetrating instrument accidentally penetrates the skin or becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids, it should be cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of.***

### Dispose or Sterilise

The proprietor of a business conducting hairdressing, beauty therapy or body art procedures which penetrate the skin must ensure that an instrument which has penetrated the skin of a person, or is contaminated with blood or body fluid be either immediately disposed of or sterilised in accordance with the below Australian and New Zealand Standards as in force from time to time:

- AS 4187 - 1994 Code of Practice for cleaning disinfecting and sterilising; and
- AS/NZS 4815:2006 Office-based health care facilities not involved in complex patient procedures and processes; and
- AS 2182 Sterilisers - Steam – Portable or AS 2487 Dry Heat Sterilisers (hot air type) or equivalent.

**Note:** only single use needles are permitted to be used for skin penetration.

### 6.3 Cleaning and Sterilising Reusable Skin Penetrating Instruments

All reusable equipment used for skin penetration should be cleaned and sterilised and maintained in a sterile condition because once a sterilised item comes into contact with something that is not sterile, it also becomes un-sterile.

A Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved steriliser should be used when sterilising instruments. Where equipment is sterilised on site a copy of the TGA approved steriliser’s listing or registration certificate must be kept and made available to an authorised officer on request.

#### Cleaning Prior to Sterilisation

Reusable skin penetrating equipment should be cleaned in the following manner:

- 1) RINSE the equipment in cold water to remove any blood or serum. (Hot water at this stage will cause coagulation and adherence of matter to the instrument and prevent complete sterilisation).
- 2) WASH the equipment using hot water and soap or detergent. (Using hot water with detergent at this stage will help remove any grease and oils).
- 3) RINSE the equipment thoroughly in hot water (greater than 70°C) and allow to dry.
- 4) STERILISE the equipment using an autoclave or other approved steriliser in accordance with the times and temperatures indicated in the next section on Autoclave.

For the operator's safety when cleaning items, disposable (and durable) gloves and protective clothing should be worn.

Cleaning Penetration Equipment Prior To Sterilisation				
<b>RINSE</b> in <i>cold</i> water	<b>WASH</b> with <i>hot</i> water & soap / detergent	<b>RINSE</b> in <i>hot</i> water	<b>DRY</b>	<b>STERILISE &amp; STORE</b>

Table 1: Steps for cleaning penetration equipment prior to sterilisation

#### Sterilisation using moist heat – Autoclave

Steam, as used in autoclaves, is the most widely used and appropriate method of sterilisation for the beauty and body art industries.

If an autoclave is to be used for sterilisation, cleaned reusable instruments should be subjected to saturated steam under pressure at the following appropriate time and temperature ratios:

Autoclave Sterilisation Ratios		
Temperature (°C)	Holding Time (mins)	Pressure
121	15	103 kPa (15 psi)
126	10	138 kPa (20 psi)
134	3	206 kPa (30 psi)

Table 2: Ratios for Autoclave Sterilisation

The operation of sterilisation equipment requires special training and skills to ensure that the correct sterilisation process is used for a given instrument, and that each cycle is adequately monitored and validated. Proprietors must ensure that staff have the necessary skills to operate onsite sterilisation equipment. Alternatively instruments may be sent off site to be sterilised.

### **The Problems Associated with Using Other Equipment for Sterilisation**

Dry Heat Sterilisers should not be used for sterilising equipment as their application is limited due to the relatively long sterilisation times and the likelihood of materials being damaged by the 160°C-180°C temperatures usually used. There is also a long warm up period and limited control over temperature within the chamber space.

Pressure Cookers **are not sterilisers** and **should not** be used.

Ultra-sonic cleansers **do not sterilise** or **disinfect** instruments, but they can provide a safe and effective means of cleaning most reusable instruments before sterilisation. The use of ultra-sonic cleansers should be in accordance with Australian Code of Practice 1487-1994.

### **Broken or Damaged Needles / Studs**

Any broken, brittle or damaged needles, razors or studs **should not** be used and **should** be disposed in a sharps container.

### **Needle and Actuating Device Holders and Trays**

All holding trays for needles and tattoo gun / actuating devices should be sterilised before use. Wooden holders **should not** be used to hold tattoo guns or other actuating devices.

## **6.4 Storage of Sterile Instruments**

All sterile packaged items should be stored in a way that will prevent contamination and damage to packaging. Storage may be in cupboards with close fitting doors and smooth washable surfaces, or in washable plastic containers with sealable lids. Cupboards and containers should be maintained in a clean, dry condition to ensure that sterile items are not contaminated. If the packaging of sterile items is torn, broken or affected by moisture items will no longer be sterile.

It is important that procedures are in place to ensure that the stock of sterile items is regularly rotated based either on the date of sterilisation or the steriliser load number.

## **6.5 Record Keeping**

A record should be maintained of any instruments sterilised on site. This should be available for inspection by an authorised officer. At a minimum, the following details should be recorded:

- time and date;
- length of time held at maximum pressure and temperature;
- maximum pressure and temperature achieved;
- any faults with the cycle; and
- number and type of items sterilised.

Where instruments are sent off site for sterilisation the following details should be recorded:

- the location of premises where sterilisation was completed;
- number of items processed; and
- method of sterilisation used

Servicing and calibration records for the sterilising device (on or off site) should also be maintained. This should also be available for inspection by an authorised officer.

## **6.6 Preparation for Client Skin Penetration**

The operator should wear single-use gloves, sterile if necessary.

The client's skin should be clean and free from infection. There should not be any sores or wounds on or around the site where the procedure is to be performed.

If shaving of the site is required, it is recommended that a single unit disposal razor be used.

Before any beauty therapy or body art procedure is carried out which results in the deliberate penetration of the skin, the site should be wiped with sterile disposable swabs containing 80% ethyl alcohol or 60 - 70% isopropyl alcohol.

Skin should be just dry before it is penetrated and should not be touched by the operator's hands.

## 7.0 Premises Management

Premises conducting hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art procedures should be constructed and fitted-out with materials that can be easily cleaned and disinfected. All surfaces and fittings should be constructed of smooth, impervious, durable and preferably light coloured materials.

There should be adequate lighting and ventilation throughout the premises. The premises should be planned to provide separate client and cleaning/sterilising areas.

### 7.1 Hand Washing Facilities

All hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art premises must be equipped with a hand wash basin dispensing hot and cold water from a single outlet. Soap and disposable paper towels must be made available adjacent to the hand basin. Handwashing facilities must be positioned in a central location so as to be easily accessible by all staff and to the satisfaction of an authorised officer.

In addition, a hand wash basin provided with an adequate supply of hot and cold water controlled by foot-operated or elbow operated taps through a single outlet, soap and paper towels must be provided in each room of operation where skin penetration occurs and to the satisfaction of an authorised officer.

### 7.2 Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sterilising Area

All hairdressing, beauty therapy and body art premises should be equipped with a cleaning area located separately from the procedure or treatment area. Equipment and reusable instruments should be moved to the cleaning area immediately after a procedure is completed to be cleaned and disinfected or sterilised.

A cleaning sink, deep enough to allow equipment to be scrubbed under water, is required to be located within the cleaning area. Items used to prepare and serve food should not be washed in this sink.

If towels and linen are to be washed on site laundry facilities should also be provided within this area.

Sufficient bench space to allow for good working practices and to prevent recontamination of clean and/or sterile items should be provided.

### 7.3 Waste Disposal

#### General Waste

General waste, such as paper, hair and food scraps, should be disposed of in a 'general waste' receptacle with plastic lining and a close-fitting lid.

#### Contaminated Waste

Should be placed into clearly identified 'infectious waste' receptacle with plastic lining and a close-fitting lid located in the procedure area. Contaminated waste should be collected by a relevant authority or contractor.

#### Wastewater

Mop bucket water should be disposed of to either

- a cleaner's sink or



- floor waste, or
- other similar facility connected to drainage that is not intended for use to prepare food, wash equipment or hand washing.

## 7.4 Linen

It is recommended that a disposable paper cover, paper towel, or clean linen be used to cover treatment beds, chairs and tables. Such covers must be changed between clients.

The Commonwealth of Australia National Occupational Health & Safety Commission *National Code of Practice for the Control of Work-related Exposure to Hepatitis and HIV (Blood-borne) Viruses* advises that the risk of disease transmission from soiled linen is very small, especially outside a health care setting.

Standard precautions however should be followed when handling linen and used linen should be considered potentially infectious whether visibly contaminated or not.

Linen bags should only be three-quarters filled and should be secured prior to transport.

Household laundering procedures using hot water and detergent is adequate for cleaning most laundry items and equipment.

## 7.5 Cleaning

All floors, floor coverings, walls, ceiling, shelves, fittings and other furniture should be routinely and regularly cleaned and maintained in good repair.

Work surfaces should be cleaned with water and detergent before and after each client session.

Treatment beds, chairs and tables should be regularly disinfected. If treatment beds, chairs and tables are not covered with a disposable cover or clean linen when procedures are being conducted they must be disinfected between clients.

A cleaning and maintenance schedule should be written, with records available upon request by an authorised officer.

## 7.6 Lighting

Work space and preparation areas used for beauty therapy or body art skin penetration procedures should be illuminated to a level that complies with Australian Code of Practice, AS 1680.2.0 1990, Interior Lighting - Recommendations for specific tasks and interiors.

## 7.7 Ventilation

Sufficient ventilation should be provided on the premises. You will need to have either:

- natural ventilation complying with BCA Part F4; or
- comply with AS1668.2-2002: The use of ventilation and air conditioning in buildings and AS/NZS 3666.1:2002 Air handling and water systems of buildings - microbial control – design, installation and commissioning and BCA Part F4.

## 7.8 Storage

Sufficient storage space is to be provided so to enable all items to be stored in a clean, dry, dust free area. Separate storage space should be provided for sterile instruments to reduce

the risk of contamination and damage to packaging. A designated storage area should also be provided for chemicals, it is important that chemicals are stored away from food and drinks.

## **7.9 Preparation of Food and Drinks**

If food is provided to clients including non-alcoholic beverages and pre-packaged ready to eat food, a separate sink to that used for cleaning and disinfection must be provided for the washing of dishes. If disposable items are used to prepare and serve non-alcoholic beverages and pre-packaged and ready to eat food a separate sink is not necessary.

If other types of food or alcoholic beverages are provided to clients the premises must be registered as a Food Business and be fully compliant with the NT Food Act.

## **7.10 Animals**

Animals, other than guide dogs for the hearing- or sight-impaired client, should not be permitted in procedural areas. Animals in non-procedural areas should be discouraged.

## 8.0 Industry Specific Conditions

### 8.1 Hairdressing

Infections can spread between:

- client to the operator; or
- client to client if the instrument used has not been thoroughly cleaned between clients.

Possible infections include:

- impetigo (school sores); and
- fungal (e.g. tinea capitis, ringworm).

To reduce the potential transmission of infection, single use neck towels should be used on each client, and all equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after it has been used.

There is the potential for accidental skin penetration to occur with this activity.

***If a non-skin penetrating instrument accidentally penetrates the skin or becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids, it should be cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of.***

To control bleeding for an accidental cut, matchstick styptic applicators can be used for one client only. Liquid styptic can be applied to a single use cloth and then applied. Chap stick and roll-on style applicators are not recommended.

Soiled cloths, tissues or dressings should be discarded immediately into the 'infectious waste' receptacle.

#### Head Lice

Head lice do not transmit any infectious diseases and there is no evidence to suggest the environment is a significant factor in the transmission of head lice.

Head lice only survive on humans. If isolated from the head they die very quickly, usually within 24 hours.

They are fragile insects, easily killed by water temperatures greater than 60°C; however this temperature is too hot for washing hair.

There are no health regulations preventing a person with head lice or their eggs from using or attending a hairdressing salon.

Should a client be treated who is found to have head lice, all instruments and linen used on the client should be immediately isolated at the conclusion of the treatment.

Linen should be washed in hot water (not less than 70 °C) with detergent and either dried on the hot cycle of a clothes dryer or in sunlight.

Combs and other instruments should be cleaned using the following steps:

- Rinse in cold water
- Wash in **hot** water with soap or detergent
- Rinse in **hot** water (70°C)
- Dry

Any hair that has been cut or shaved should be immediately disposed of in a sealed bag. This sealed bag may be disposed of in the 'general waste' receptacle.

It is recommended that salons keep copies of current head lice information brochures

available to help clients understand the condition and their treatment options.

## 8.2 Beauty Therapy

### Waxing

Operators should wash their hands before starting a waxing procedure on a client. Single use gloves do not have to be worn during this procedure unless the operator suspects s/he will be exposed to blood or other bodily substances.

Treatments such as depilatory waxes and lotions can act as sources for disease transmission if they are incorrectly handled. It is recommended that wax that is to be used on a client is ladled from the wax pot into a separate disposable container to prevent contamination of the stock of wax. If non disposable containers are used they must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between clients.

It is recommended that disposable applicators be used to apply the wax. If reusable metal applicators are used they must be cleaned and sterilised between each client

Disposable cotton/gauze pads and strips should be used to remove the wax and disposed of immediately after use.

If roll-on wax applicators are used, a new roller head must be used for each client or the roller head must be sterilised before being reused. As the wax which is rolled onto the skin tends to re-circulate back into the container and can contaminate the unused wax, any residual wax remaining after a treatment should be disposed of as waste.

Depilatory creams and lotions should be made from a new batch for each client, as used treatments may contain infected skin or hair follicles. Any remaining cream should be disposed of immediately after use.

**If a non-skin penetrating instrument accidentally penetrates the skin or becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids, it should be cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of.**

Special care should be taken when waxing sensitive and/or intimate areas, and if bleeding occurs, the area should be blotted with tissue or absorbent dressing. Soiled tissues and dressings should be discarded immediately into the infectious waste bin.

Intimate waxing treatments should be performed with caution. People with underlying medical conditions may be at high risk of infection transmission.

### Pedicures and Manicures

Infections can spread between:

- nail to nail on the client;
- client to the operator; or
- client to client if the instrument used has not been thoroughly cleaned between clients.

Possible infections include:

- fungal (e.g. tinea pedis, ringworm);
- paronychia (infection of the nail folds) caused by *Candida albicans*;
- bacteria, such as *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus pyogenes* (group A streptococci).

Prior to carrying out any nail treatments, operators should wash their hands thoroughly. The hands and feet of clients should be cleaned and dried before a manicure or pedicure.

If equipment is used to penetrate the skin, or the equipment has the potential to penetrate the skin, it should be sterilised before it is used and maintained in a sterile clean condition, for example, cuticle cutters, corn planes etc.

Buffers (manual or machine) should be cleaned and disinfected between each client or should be single use.

Single use emery boards should not be re-used as they cannot be adequately washed and dried to allow for re-use.

***If a non-skin penetrating instrument accidentally penetrates the skin or becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids, it should be cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of.***

Foot spas should be drained, cleaned and disinfected between each client and at the end of the day to prevent the spread of bacterial infections.

When cleaning foot spas, all components e.g. inlet jets need to be removed and scrubbed clean, and the entire foot spa then needs to be cleaned and disinfected. After it has been disinfected, drain, rinse and dry the foot spa.

You should follow the manufacturer's directions on cleaning and disinfection and it is important that you soak the foot spa with disinfectant overnight once a week.

### **Facials**

Operators should wash their hands before starting a facial procedure on a client.

The client's face should be cleaned before any massage of facial tissue or the application of lotions, creams, moisturisers or make-up. All applicators should be single use, or cleaned, disinfected and dried after each client.

### **Spray Tanning**

Premises should be set out to reduce the potential unintended exposure of spray particles to the operator and client. Proprietors must ensure that there is adequate ventilation in areas designated for spray tanning.

In addition:

- suitable PPE should be worn by the operator e.g. single use gloves and masks;
- the client should also be provided with suitable protective covering;
- manufacturing requirements for setting up and maintaining the treatment area and equipment, and equipment cleaning and disinfection procedures should be followed at all times; and
- the work area and equipment should be kept in a clean and hygienic condition.

### **Lancing**

Operators should wash their hands before starting a lancing procedure on a client. Single use gloves should be worn during the procedure. Once the procedure finishes, the gloves should be removed and the hands rewashed.

Single use, sterile equipment should be used for this process.

### **Electrolysis**

Operators should wash their hands before starting an electrolysis procedure on a client. Single use gloves do not have to be worn during this procedure. Once the procedure finishes, the gloves should be removed and the hands rewashed.

Single use disposable electrolysis needles should be used at all times.

Only sterile needles are to be inserted into the electrolysis equipment at the start of the treatment on each client. The same needle can be used for removing as many hairs as necessary from one client at a single session, but the needle should then be discarded after use on that client.

The needle used for one client should not be stored and then used again for the same client at another session. A sterile needle should be used for each treatment session.

## 8.3 Body Art

### Ear Piercing

Operators should wash their hands before starting an ear piercing procedure on a client. Single use gloves do not have to be worn during this procedure unless the operator suspects s/he will be exposed to blood or other body substances.

All skin penetration equipment should be sterile before use, and cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of. Where possible, it is recommended that single-use sterile equipment be used.

***If a non-skin penetrating instrument accidentally penetrates the skin or becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids, it should be cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of.***

It is strongly recommended that an ear piercing gun only be used on the ear lobe. Use of an ear piercing gun on cartilage increases the risk of localised trauma which in turn increases susceptibility to infection.

Closed ear piercing studs should be in a sterile condition immediately prior to use. Thorough cleansing and disinfection of the ear piercing gun, particularly the stud/cartridge holder, is necessary before and after being used on any client.

The re-useable ear piercing gun component should not come into contact with the ear.

If a needle is used for ear piercing, single use sharps should be used.

### Body Piercing

Operators should wash their hands before starting a body piercing procedure on a client. Sterile, single use gloves should be worn during the procedures. Once the procedure finishes, the gloves should be removed and the hands rewashed.

Body piercing should not be performed with an ear piercing gun.

All skin penetration equipment, for example, clamps and forceps, should be sterile before use, and cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of. Only single-use sterile needles must be used.

***If a non-skin penetrating instrument accidentally penetrates the skin or becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids, it should be cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of.***

Appropriate sterile body piercing needles and equipment should always be used. Only sterile jewellery should be inserted.

Hepatitis C has been found to be transmitted via the sharing of body piercing jewellery, as such; ***you should advise your clients never to share their body jewellery.***

Written after care advice should be provided to the client outlining:

- expected healing time for the body piercing;
- how to care for the new piercing e.g. cleaning regimen and recommended antiseptic products to use; and
- when medical advice should be sought.

**Note:** You should not perform a body piercing procedure involving the genitals or nipples on a person under the age of 18.

**Note:** You should not perform a body piercing procedure on any person who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

### **Cosmetic Tattooing**

Cosmetic tattooing is also referred to as pigment implantation, semi-permanent creation, permanent make-up, derma-impigmentation and micro-pigmentation. All these procedures are similar to those involved in tattooing. The same principles apply regardless of the type of premises in which the tattoo is undertaken.

Operators should wash their hands before starting a cosmetic tattooing procedure on a client. Sterile, single use gloves should be worn during the procedure. Once the procedure finishes, the gloves should be removed and the hands rewashed.

All skin penetration equipment should be sterile before use, and cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of. Only single-use sterile needles must be used.

***If a non-skin penetrating instrument accidentally penetrates the skin or becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids, it should be cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of.***

Dyes, pigments, solutions used in skin penetration should be poured or removed from stock using a new clean spatula or ladle and placed into a sterile container prior to each client treatment. If more dye, pigment, solution is required a new spatula should be used. (A new ladle is not required providing the ladle does not come into contact with any material that is in use on the client). Disposable spatulas and containers should be discarded into an appropriate waste receptacle after use.

Written after care advice should be provided to the client outlining:

- the expected healing time;
- when medical advice should be sought; and
- how to care for the cosmetic tattoo e.g. cleaning regimen and recommended antiseptic products to use.

**Note:** You should not perform a tattooing procedure on a person under the age of 18.

**Note:** Poor quality dyes, pigments, solutions used in skin penetration have the potential to cause harm.

### **Tattooing**

Operators should wash their hands before starting a tattooing procedure on a client. Sterile single use gloves should be worn during the procedure. Once the procedure finishes, the gloves should be removed and the hands rewashed.

All skin penetration equipment should be sterile before use, and cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of. Only sterile, single, use needles must be used.

Reusable tubes and needle bars should be cleaned and sterilised in accordance with these Guidelines. Electrical equipment associated with the needle bar should be cleaned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.

***If a non-skin penetrating instrument accidentally penetrates the skin or becomes***

***contaminated with blood or body fluids, it should be cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of.***

Tattoo machines should be covered with disposable plastic covers and stencils should not be reused.

If the area to be tattooed needs to be shaved, a new disposable safety razor should be used and then discarded into an approved sharps container.

It is possible for pigment dyes to be contaminated from viruses (such as Hepatitis B and C) in blood and body substances. To avoid these contaminated dyes from being the source of transmission to other clients, pigments in new or sterile containers or "caps" should be used for each client. Dyes should be administered from "collapsible" tubes, or by another appropriate manner, to reduce the potential for contamination.

Any swabs, cloths, paper or cotton gauze used during body art procedures should be single-use and should be disposed of immediately after use in a water-proof bag. These bags should then be sealed and disposed of in the 'infectious waste' bin after each client.

If petroleum or lubricating jelly is to be used to cover the client's skin, the jelly should be removed from the container using a new clean wooden or plastic spatula. A new spatula should be used every time more jelly is required from the container.

Written after care advice should be provided to the client outlining:

- expected healing time;
- how to care for the new tattoo e.g. cleaning regimen and recommended antiseptic products to use; and
- when medical advice should be sought.

**Note:** You should not perform a tattooing procedure on a person under the age of 18.

**Note:** You should not perform a tattooing procedure on a person who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

**Note:** Poor quality dyes, pigments, solutions used in skin penetration have the potential to cause harm.

### **Non medical Body Modification**

Operators should wash their hands before starting a non-medical body modification procedure on a client. Sterile single use gloves should be worn during the procedure. Once the procedure finishes, the gloves should be removed and the hands rewashed.

All skin penetration equipment should be sterile before use, and cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of. Where possible, it is recommended that single-use sterile equipment be used. Sterile, single use needles should always be used.

***If a non-skin penetrating instrument accidentally penetrates the skin or becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids, it should be cleaned and sterilised before re-use, or disposed of.***

Disposable containers should be discarded into an appropriate waste receptacle after use. Reusable containers should be cleaned, disinfected or sterilised in accordance with this Guideline.

Written after care advice should be provided to the client outlining:

- expected healing time ;
- how to care for non-medical body modification e.g. cleaning regimen and recommended antiseptic products to use; and
- when medical advice should be sought.



**Note:** You should not perform a non-medical body modification procedure on a person under the age of 18.

**Note:** You should not perform a non-medical body modification procedure on a person who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

## Appendix 1: DoH Environmental Health Contact Details

### **Top End**

2nd Floor Casuarina Plaza  
258 Trower Rd  
CASUARINA  
PO Box 40596  
CASUARINA NT 0811  
Ph: 8922 7377  
Fax: 8922 7036

### **Barkly**

Health Development Building  
Cnr Schmidt & Windley Sts  
TENNANT CREEK  
PO Box 346  
TENNANT CREEK NT 0861  
Ph: 8962 4302  
FAX: 8962 4420

### **Central Australia**

Peter Sitzler Building  
67 Stuart Highway  
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0870  
PO BOX 721  
ALICE SPRINGS 0871  
PH: 895 56118  
Fax: 8952 5927

### **Katherine**

Ground Floor  
O'Keefe House  
KATHERINE  
PMB 73  
KATHERINE NT 0851  
Ph: 8973 9062  
Ph: 8973 9061  
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### **East Arnhem**

Community Health Building  
Endeavour Square  
NHULUNBUY NT 0881  
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