

CODE OF PRACTICE
Control of Acupuncture, Tattooing, Ear Piercing and Electrolysis
Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

It is the duty of every employer and self employed person to conduct their undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that he and / or other persons are not exposed to risks to their health and safety and infectious disease. The standards and procedures outlined will be regarded as necessary to fulfill the statutory duties of employers, employees or self-employed persons under this Act.

1. PREMISES

1.1 General

Floors, walls, ceilings, screen partitions and ceilings of premises must be clean and should be of sound construction, smooth finish and capable of being readily cleaned.

1.2 Table Tops and other Working Surfaces

The table tops, shelves and other working surfaces must have a smooth impervious surface, be in good repair and kept clean with frequent use of suitable disinfectant.

1.3 Chairs, Seats, Couches

Every chair, seat or couch in the premises shall be kept clean and in good repair.

1.4 Washing Facilities

A wash hand basin with adequate supply of running hot and cold water should be provided at a position conveniently accessible to the operating area. Soap, nail brush and disposable towels must be provided and maintained at the wash hand basin.

1.5 Ventilation

Effective and suitable means of ventilation should be provided.

1.6 Artificial Lighting

Adequate lighting must be provided and maintained. A standard of 500 lux must be maintained at operational level.

2. PERSONAL CLEANLINESS

2.1 Every person who attends a customer must have clean hands and wear a clean washable overall

2.2 Any boil, sore or scratch on an exposed part of the body must be effectively covered by a waterproof dressing.

3. PREVENTION OF SELF INJURY

3.1 The operator should be careful to avoid injury by use of SHARPS or other instruments

4. INFECTIOUS DISEASE

- 4.1 Adequate enquiries must be made to ensure that customers are not suffering any infectious disease before treatment
- 4.2 Adequate records must be maintained of all customers and details of their treatment
- 4.3 The areas of skin to be treated should be wiped over with a fresh pre-packed spirit swab.
- 4.4 Never treat skin that has a rash.
- 4.5 Instruments used to pierce a persons skin, or objects which may be in contact with broken skin, must be considered to be contaminated once used and must not be used again until they have been sterilised. Wherever possible disposable instruments must be used

5. STERILISATION AND DISINFECTION OF INSTRUMENTS

5.1 Sterilisation

This achieves the complete destruction of all germs. The most efficient and reliable form of sterilisation is by heat (either dry heat or steam under pressure). Both the temperature and time this temperature is maintained are important. Once the required temperature is reached, this must be held for a minimum time.

- 5.2 Irradiated disposable needles and blade should be used in preference with a fresh needle per customer. However, where this is not possible, all skin piercing instruments must be sterilised before use.
- 5.3 Sterilisation should preferably be done by autoclaving but a small sterilising oven (dry heat oven) may be used and for certain instruments a glassbead steriliser may be suitable.
- 5.4 Equipment for steam, dry heat and glass bead sterilisation must be checked checked weekly to see that required temperature is attained.

5.5 Disinfection

This means that only certain organisms (depending on the method used) are destroyed.

- 5.6 Chemical disinfectants must NOT be used for instruments intended for the deliberate piercing of the skin deliberate piercing of the skin.

6. DEALING WITH CONTAMINATION

6.1 Major Contamination of a Surface

If blood is spilt in any quantity on uncarpeted floors or working surfaces, cover it with a paper towel (wearing disposable gloves) and gently flood with fresh, suitably diluted hypochlorate or chlorine releasing disinfectant. Allow the disinfectant to act for a minimum of 15 minutes, and clear up with more paper towels and gloved hands. Discard the used towels in a leak proof plastic bag and rinse the treated surface with water. Dispose the gloves.

6.2 With gloved hands swab the area very thoroughly with a paper towel soaked in a dilution of chlorine containing disinfectant. Discard towels as before, rinse the surface and discard the gloves. Clothing or fabric contaminated with blood should be hot washed in a machine or dry cleaned.

7. DISPOSAL OF INSTRUMENTS AND WASTE

7.1 Disposable Needles, razors and other sharp Instruments

Once used must be placed in a waste container, which is puncture proof, e.g. Sharps disposal bin. D.H.S.S. specification TSS/S/330 015 Dec 1982. The Environmental Department can offer advice on any necessary special collection or disposal of them.

7.2 Other soiled waste including swabs, paper towels and tissue, paper cups etc. should be put in a leak-proof plastic bag which is sealed and placed in a further sealed bag before disposal through normal collection

7.3 All used disinfectants must be carefully poured down the sink after use and flushed with running water

8.FIRST AID

8.1 A First Aid Box must be provided and maintained, containing suitable and sufficient bandages, dressings (including waterproof dressings) and antiseptic. Standard required by First Aid Regulations 1981.

8.2 Ointments should not be applied directly by the fingers but on a piece of fresh gauze. It is preferable to use tubes rather than jars that are more likely to permit cross infection.