

Electrolysis and Laser Hair Removal



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

Electrolysis is a method of permanent hair removal and if **infection control prevention and control best practices are not followed infections including skin, and blood-borne diseases such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C could be transmitted.**

Before service:

- Work area must be clean, tidy and well lit.
- Hand wash sink(s) must be:
 - located near the work area(s)
 - supplied with hot and cold running water, liquid soap in a dispenser and single-use hand towels at all times
 - wash hands with liquid soap and warm running water, then dry with disposable paper towels
- Premise must be equipped with a sink(s) for cleaning of equipment/instruments.
- Have all required supplies for service available and within easy reach.
- Remove any items not required for the service from the work area.
- Cover all work surfaces with disposable coverings or clean linen.
- Cover the epilator cord with a single plastic cover.
- Examine the client's skin to ensure that it is free from cuts, wounds, rashes and infections on any area where service will be performed.
- Clean the client's skin with an antiseptic, such as 70% isopropyl alcohol using a clean, disposable swab.
- Hands must be washed:
 - before and after each client
 - before and after wearing gloves
 - in between breaks in service
 - after contact with blood or body fluids or after contact with items known to be contaminated with blood.
- Hepatitis B vaccination is strongly recommended for the personal service worker.

During service:

- Used needles must be placed into a puncture-resistant, leak-proof container with a tight-fitting lid and properly labelled with a biological hazard sign.
- Wear single use gloves for each client.
- Gloves must be changed between clients, and between breaks in treatment of the same client.
- Use single-use, pre-packaged disposable, sterile needles and discard immediately after use.
- The epilator cord must be protected with a non-absorbent single-use disposable cover and changed between each client or cleaned then wiped thoroughly with an intermediate to high level disinfectant between clients.
- Single-use sterile needles should be used to expose the ingrown hairs.
- Instruments **not** used to remove ingrown hairs, but used only to pull the hair, must be cleaned and disinfected with an intermediate-level or high-level disinfectant between uses.



After service:

- Work contact surfaces (headrests, worktables and chairs, etc.) must be cleaned and disinfected with a low level disinfectant after each client.
- The removable tip/cap of the epilator needle/probe holder must be cleaned and disinfected* with a high-level disinfectant after each client.
- Equipment/instruments used in laser hair removal including probe, cords, buttons and handles must be cleaned and disinfected* with a low level disinfectant when in contact with intact skin and an intermediate level disinfectant for items that contact body fluids.
- Reusable items used to remove ingrown hairs must be cleaned and then sterilized* after each use.
- Instruments used to hold sterile items (e.g. tweezers) must be high-level disinfected* or sterilized between uses.

References:

1. Tattooing and Micropigmentation. Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. April 2011.
2. Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Service Settings. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. January 2009.
3. Table 6 – Detailed Infection Prevention and Control Procedures for Tattooing and Micropigmentation. Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Service Settings. Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. January 2009. Pg. 60–64

*See the fact sheet, [How to Clean Instruments in Personal Service Settings](#) for detailed cleaning and disinfection steps.

Source: The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices Personal Services Settings, January 2009.

Alternate formats of this document are available upon request.

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