

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**GUIDANCE NOTES ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1982
RELATING TO THE PRACTICES OF ACUPUNCTURE, TATTOOING, COSMETIC PIERCING, EAR PIERCING AND ELECTROLYSIS**

The Council have resolved that Sections 14 to 17 of the above Act apply to the District, which has the effect that persons engaging in any of the stated skin piercing practices may not do so unless they have been registered by the Council.

In the case of Tattooing and Acupuncture, each operative engaged in the practice must be individually registered, however, with ear-piercing or electrolysis the person carrying on the business only is required to register.

Registration is in respect of one premises only, and if separate premises are used, a separate registration would be required.

A registration will remain in force indefinitely unless cancelled by a Court.

The only exemptions to the requirement for registration are for medical practitioners and those supervised by them in respect of all of the skin piercing practices and for dentists and those supervised by them in respect of the practice of acupuncture only.

The registration can only be in respect of a premises, and therefore use of temporary or mobile structures such as market stalls for skin piercing will not be allowed. "Premises" may be part of a house, but a planning consent may be required for change of use.

Where a person is registered in respect of a particular premises, he may visit clients in their home on an occasional basis, but activities must normally be carried out at registered premises.

The Council have adopted byelaws for the purpose of securing the cleanliness of registered premises, of the fittings in those premises, and of persons registered and also the cleaning and sterilisation of instruments.

1. **Code of Practice for Acupuncture, Tattooing, Cosmetic Piercing, Ear-piercing and Electrolysis**

The information below is given as a guide to the necessary standards which will need to be attained in order to comply with the byelaws.

- 1.1 The standards and procedures outlined will be also regarded as necessary to fulfil the statutory duties of employers, employees or self-employed persons as outlined in the Health and Safety at Work etc Act, 1974.

- 1.2 All persons engaged in the business of cosmetic piercing, ear piercing, tattooists acupuncture, or electrolysis shall have been properly trained and be competent in the carrying out of the processes involved in that business.

2. **Constructional Standards**

- 2.1 The internal walls, floors, doors, windows, ceilings and screen partitions of the premises should be of sound construction, smooth finish and capable of being readily cleansed and redecorated where appropriate. Finishes should be light reflective colours.
- 2.2 Effective and suitable means of ventilation should be provided.
- 2.3 Effective provision should be made for lighting the premises, 500 LUX being the recommended level for the operational area.

3. **Cleanliness of Premises and Maintenance and Cleanliness of Fixtures**

- 3.1 The internal walls, floors, doors, windows, ceilings, woodwork and all other internal parts of the premises shall be maintained in a clean condition.
- 3.2 There shall be provided in the premises suitable and sufficient covered bins or receptacles for collection of all waste materials and every such bin and receptacle shall be emptied as often as necessary, but, if any event, not less than once each day.
- 3.3 Every chair, seat, bed or couch in the premises shall be maintained in a clean condition and kept in such good order, repair and condition as to enable them to be effectively cleaned.
- 3.4 Every shelf, table, cabinet, cupboard, wash hand basin, and all other furniture and fittings in the premises shall be maintained in a clean condition and kept in such good order, repair and condition as to enable them to be effectively cleaned.

4. **Cleanliness of Instruments, Materials and Equipment**

- 4.1 All gowns, wraps or other protective clothing shall be in a clean condition before use with any customer.
- 4.2 Paper and other material used as a covering on a chair or seat or couch and any towel, cloth or any article which is applied to the customer's skin shall be clean and shall not have been previously used in connection with any other customer unless it consists of a material which can be and has been adequately cleaned.

- 4.3 All instruments and needles must be clean and sterile before use with any customer. (See Appendix "A" for advice on steralisation).
- 4.4 A fresh supply of dye-stuff from a clean receptacle shall be used for each customer of a tattoo business.

5. **Personal Cleanliness of Operator**

- 5.1 Every person who attends a customer must ensure that:-
 - (a) they have clean hands
 - (b) that they wear a clean washable overall, and
 - (c) sterile, disposable gloves should be worn by the operator during all skin piercing operations
 - (d) that any boil, sore, scratch or broken skin on any exposed part of their body, is effectively covered by an impermeable dressing.
 - (e) There should be "No smoking" in the operational area and a notice to this effect should be displayed in that area.

6. **Washing Facilities**

- 6.1 There shall be provided and maintained on the premises, a sink properly connected to the drainage system with a supply of clean, running hot and cold water for the purpose of washing instruments, equipment and containers used in connection with the business.
- 6.2 There shall be provided and maintained on the premises sufficient wash hand basins, properly connected to the drainage system, with a supply of clean, running hot and cold water for the purpose of hand washing. It should be sited conveniently accessible to the operating area and provided and maintained with soap, nailbrush and disposable towels or other suitable drying facilities.

7. **First Aid**

- 7.1 There must be provided and maintained for persons engaged in the business a first aid kit containing suitable and sufficient bandages, dressings (including waterproof dressings) and antiseptic.

8. **Infectious Diseases**

- 8.1 Enquiries should be made to ensure that customers are not suffering from any infectious disease before the operation commences.

9. **Prevention of Infection**

9.1 The area of skin to be treated should be adequately cleansed and treated with an antiseptic solution or proprietary medical wipe.

10. **Records**

Adequate records should be compiled and maintained of all customers, including details of the treatment involved.

11. **Removal of Tattoos**

11.1 The removal of all tattoos is an operation which is likely to give rise to complications. Any person who requests treatment for the removal of a tattoo must be advised to consult their own general medical practitioner.

12. **Ear Piercing**

12.1 It is most important that "sleepers" are made of suitable materials, for example, gold, platinum or surgical stainless steel. Problems can arise from adverse effects of unsuitable materials remaining in close contact with body fluids.

Good quality studs and butterfly clasps supplied in individual sterile pre-paced containers designed to fit into the piercing appliance without being touched by hand, must be used.

13. **General**

13.1 In the premises where tattooing is carried out, a notice outlining details of the Tattooing of Minors Act, 1969 should be displayed.

13.2 Customers should be advised to contact their own general medical practitioner if any complications arise following the operation.

STERILISATION OF INSTRUMENTS AND WORKING SURFACES

1. There are few satisfactory methods of ensuring sterility of instruments.

Practical methods are:-

- (a) **Purchase of disposable needles which have been irradiated after manufacture and packaging.**

This involves little effort on the part of the operator other than ensuring no contamination of the instrument after removal from sterile wrapping.

- (b) **Chemical Disinfection**

Disinfectants are necessary where it is not practicable to sterilise equipment and instruments. They do not sterilise, that is kill all germs, but their proper use will reduce the number of germs to the extent that they pose little danger of infection.

Two disinfectants frequently used are hypochlorite (e.g. Chlorox, Domestos) and Glutaraldehyde (e.g. Cidex). Hypochlorite can corrode metals and is therefore useful for wiping table tops, seats etc. Solutions of hypochlorite used to be made up each day but weekly preparation is adequate for glutaraldehyde.

Disinfectants are useful for working surfaces and equipment such as guns, motors etc., but are not suitable for the sterilisation of needles. Work surfaces must be cleaned with soap and water to remove physical dirt prior to disinfecting.

70% spirit or alcohol is necessary for cleaning the skin prior to piercing.

Disposable needles should be disinfected before disposal.

- (c) **Sterilisation by moist heat or dry heat**

This involves the purchase of an autoclave or hot air sterilising cabinet. The simplest form of autoclave is the domestic pressure cooker which may be purchased very cheaply. If a larger or more elaborate device is needed medical autoclaves or hot air sterilising cabinets are available for relatively modest sums. The use of heat sterilising equipment is simple and straightforward.

Alternatively, instruments and equipment may be boiled together in a stainless steel container for at least 20 minutes. After boiling, the water should be poured away and the contents allowed to cool and dry by evaporation in the vessel.

NOTE: All instruments used should be made from non-corrodible material

Sterilisation time for autoclave

<u>Temperature °C</u>	<u>Minimum holding time in minutes once the required Temperature has been achieved</u>
121	15
126	10
134	3

Oven-dry heat method

Minimum holding time in minutes once the required Temperature has been achieved

160	45
170	18
180	8
190	2

It should be noted that the much higher times and temperatures required with the dry heat method may damage some types of needles.

ACUTE VIRAL INFECTIVE HEPATITIS

Viral Hepatitis is believed to consist of several distinct disease entities, a common feature of which is infection of the liver which may lead to clinical "yellow jaundice".

The infection is caused by different viruses of which Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B viruses are the commonest and most well known.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A (formerly "infectious Hepatitis") is normally transmitted by the faecal-oral route in the same way as most of the enteric infections which cause "food poisoning". It has an incubation period of about four weeks. It is a common infection in conditions of poor sanitation and overcrowding. Infected shell fish can be a cause of the infection and there is an increased incidence among travellers to countries with inadequate sanitation. It is not usually transmitted through penetration of the skin.

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B was formerly known as "serum Hepatitis". Although various body fluids, such as saliva, urine, etc., have been implicated in the spread of infection, infectivity appears to be essentially related to blood. Hepatitis B virus is spread through the blood system either by penetration of the skin with infected needles, razors etc., or contact with broken skin from contaminated apparatus or surfaces. It usually has a longer incubation period of from six weeks to six months.

Hepatitis B must be recognised as an occupational hazard to acupuncturists etc. It is often acquired by exposure to the blood of apparently healthy people, for example, symptomless carriers of the virus or from patients incubating the infection but not yet actually ill. It is thus essential that the acupuncturist etc. is aware of the risk of contracting the infection and employs a high standard of care in his practice at all times.

High standards of hygiene and safety consciousness will greatly reduce the incidence of Hepatitis B. Risk of the infection to clients from unwise procedures must also not be underestimated.

Vaccination

Vaccine is available for Hepatitis B, however it is in short supply and is only available as a precaution by the N.H.S. to certain high risk groups. Acupuncturists, tattooists, ear piercers and persons who carry out electrolysis are not included in these groups, and will only be able to obtain the vaccine as

a precaution privately. This risk to persons in these occupations are very low providing that the hygienic practices are strictly adhered to.

Accidental Skin Piercing

Where the skin is accidentally pierced by a used needle or instrument, the following action is recommended:

1. The cuts or needle pricks should be washed at once with soap and water and made to bleed. Iodine should be applied. Other contaminated areas should be washed thoroughly.
2. Identify the patient on whom the instrument had been used for future reference.
3. Visit your general practitioner and explain what has happened. You may be required to give a blood sample.
4. The result of the blood test should be received from the Hepatitis laboratory within 48 hours. If immuglobulin treatment is required you will be contacted by your doctor.