



# Body and Beauty Art

## Electrolysis

### What is the Health Risk?

You and your clients are at risk of being exposed to HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C or other microorganisms such as bacteria or fungi.

**You do not have to see blood or body fluids on equipment or surfaces for an infection to occur.**

### Before you begin a service:

- Set up all supplies and equipment that will be used.
- Cover the epilator cord with a single use plastic cover.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with liquid soap under warm running water and then dry with disposable paper towel; see the **Handwashing poster**.
- Wear new, single use, disposable gloves.
- Examine the client's skin or body to ensure it is free from any cuts, wounds, rashes or visible infections around the area you will be working on.
- Clean the skin with an antiseptic, such as iodine or 70% isopropyl alcohol, using a clean disposable swab.
- Use sterile, prepackaged needles. Open sterile packaging in view of client.
- Insert needle into epilator without direct hand contact.

### After you have finished a service:

- Apply antiseptic/ointment/mild astringent using a single use, disposable swab or clean gloved hands.
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with liquid soap under warm running water and then dry with disposable paper towel, even if gloves were worn during the service. See the **Handwashing poster**.
- Provide verbal and written aftercare instructions to client. These instructions should include
  - avoid touching skin or touch skin only with washed hands;
  - avoid using make-up or any cosmetic products in the area that has been worked on.
- Dispose of sharps in a puncture resistant sharps container. Do not overfill, empty, or touch contents of a sharps container. Do not discard sharps into the municipal garbage.
- Clean\* and then disinfect the tweezers used to pull the hair out with an intermediate level disinfectant, such as 70% isopropyl alcohol, allowing it to soak for 10 minutes, after each client.
- Clean\* and then disinfect tweezers used to insert needles into the electrolysis instrument using a high level disinfectant, such as a bleach solution consisting of ¼ cup of bleach to 2 ¼ cups of water. Allow the tweezers to soak in the solution for 10 minutes.



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- Clean\* and then disinfect the reusable needle holder with a high level disinfectant, such as a bleach solution consisting of ¼ cup of bleach to 2 ¼ cups of water allowing it to contact the surface for 10 minutes after each client.
- Discard the epilator cord disposable cover immediately after each service, **OR**,
- Clean\* and then disinfect the epilator cord with an intermediate level disinfectant, such as 70% isopropyl alcohol, between each client.
- Clean\* and then wipe with a low-level disinfectant, the epilator button/knob controls after each client or cover with a single use plastic.
- Clean\* and then disinfect headrests, worktables and beds with a low level disinfectant, such as 1 tsp of bleach with 10 cups of water allowing it to contact the surface for 10 minutes, after each client.
- Keep client records and accidental blood and body fluids exposure records on site for a minimum of one year and on file for five years.

**\*See the General and Operational Requirements fact sheet for detailed cleaning and disinfecting steps.**

## Records:

- Electrolysis is an invasive procedure. Records must be kept of every client who has received an invasive procedure. This record must include
  - date of procedure;
  - full name (first and last) of personal service worker;
  - client's full name (first and last);
  - complete mailing address ;
  - telephone number;
  - details of the procedure carried out.
- Client records and accidental blood and body fluids exposure records must be kept on site for a minimum of one year and on file for five years.

## Additional Requirements:

- The heat produced by the current passing through an electrolysis needle is not hot enough to sterilize the needle: needles must be prepackaged, sterile and single use. **Do not** store and reuse needles, even on the same client.
- Do not use tweezers or any other instrument to remove ingrown hairs.
- Use only single use, sterile needles/lancets to expose ingrown hairs and then use tweezers to pull the hair out.
- Remove all antiseptics or ointments with a single use spatula or tongue depressor. Do not double dip.

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

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