

# BODY ART GUIDELINES

## **Purpose**

This guideline provides general explanations of procedures for the maintenance and operation of body art facilities and permitting requirements for body art technicians. Please refer to the Southwest Utah Public Health Department's *Body Art Regulation* for a complete listing of regulatory requirements.

## **Definitions**

“Aftercare instructions” means written instructions given to a patron about caring for the body art and surrounding area. Aftercare instructions shall be specific as to the procedure performed and shall inform the patron regarding normal healing. Instructions should encourage a patron to consult a physician if the body art area is healing abnormally.

“Body art” means the practice of physical body adornment using, but not limited to the following techniques: body piercing, tattooing, cosmetic tattooing, microblading, branding, and scarification.

“Body art technician” means any person who performs body art procedures.

“Patron” means any person who receives a body art procedure in a body art facility.

“Permit” means written authorization issued by the Southwest Utah Public Health Department.

“Universal precautions” means a set of guidelines and controls that requires an employer and employee(s) to assume that all human blood and specified human body fluids are infectious for HIV, HBV and other blood pathogens. Precautions include hand-washing, gloving, personal protective equipment (which includes, but is not limited to, disposable gloves, apron, mask, and eye protection), injury prevention, and proper handling and disposal of needles, other sharp instruments, and blood and body fluid contaminated items.

## **Body Art Technician Requirements**

1. An individual shall obtain a body art technician permit before performing any body art procedure.
2. A body art technician applicant shall demonstrate to the Department that he or she has sufficient knowledge to properly conduct a sanitary body art procedure.
3. A body art technician applicant shall submit documentation showing that the applicant has begun or has completed a hepatitis B vaccination series.
4. A body art technician applicant shall submit documentation of successful completion of the American Red Cross course in Bloodborne Pathogen Training within the past two (2) years.
5. A body art technician applicant shall submit documentation showing that the applicant has completed the American Red Cross course in CPR and First Aid within the past two (2) years.
6. A body art technician applicant shall pass a written exam regarding basic knowledge in anatomy, physiology, disease prevention and legal requirements for body art technicians.

7. A body art technician shall wash hands thoroughly with liquid hand soap and warm water up to mid-forearm for a minimum of 20 seconds before and after administering body art on any patron. After thorough washing, hands shall be dried using single-use disposable towels.
8. A body art technician may not perform a body art procedure if infected with any communicable disease(s) or while having any open wound(s), cut(s), sore(s), burn(s), or other skin abnormality on the hand, wrist, arm, or any portion of their body that may come into contact with a patron's skin.
9. A body art technician shall not eat, drink, or use tobacco in any form while performing any body art procedure, while sterilizing or handling body art equipment, or while in the body art personal service station area. A body art technician must rewash hands and wear new, unused gloves if leaving the personal service station for any reason.

### **Permits and Plan Reviews**

1. No person shall operate a body art facility without a valid body art permit.
2. A body art permit shall not be transferable from one body art facility to another.
3. Application for a body art permit shall be made prior to the Department issuing a body art permit, commencement of operation of the facility, or the performance of any body art procedure.
4. A body art permit shall be issued annually and may be valid for up to one year. A body art technician permit shall be issued bi-annually and may be valid for up to two years.
5. A body art permit applicant or body art permit holder shall submit, prior to the start of construction or any remodeling of an existing structure, plans and specifications for review and approval.

### **Facility Construction**

1. All surfaces within a personal service station area shall be constructed of smooth, easily cleanable, and of nonabsorbent materials. Walls shall be light in color unless otherwise approved.
2. The personal service station shall be separated from waiting customers or observers by a wall or panel at least four feet high. Body art technicians shall be able to block personal service stations from view of other areas to maintain a patron's privacy.
3. Each personal service station shall have a foot-pedal operated, covered waste container.
4. A body art facility may be allowed in a dwelling ONLY if acceptable to the planning, zoning, or business licensing authority of the municipality or county where the body art facility intends to operate. A body art facility located in a dwelling shall be located in a room which is used exclusively for body art procedures.
5. A body art facility shall have a lavatory which shall have a toilet, a handwashing sink with hot and cold water, liquid hand soap, and single use towels. Body art equipment shall not be washed in a lavatory. The floors, walls, cabinets, and fixtures in the lavatory must be constructed of smooth, easily cleanable, and nonabsorbent materials.
6. If sterilized equipment will be reused, a body art facility shall have a sink with hot and cold water specifically designated for washing contaminated body art equipment.

7. A body art facility shall have at least one designated hand wash sink which is easily accessible for body art technicians to wash their hands prior to and while performing body art procedures. The hand wash sink shall be equipped with hot and cold running water, liquid soap, single use towels, and be protected from contamination source(s).
8. A body art facility shall be equipped with an adequately stocked and maintained first aid kit.
9. All body art facilities shall be completely separated by solid partitions or walls extending floor to ceiling from any room used for food preparation, any hair salon, any retail sales, or any other activity that may cause potential contamination of body art facility work surfaces.

### **Use of Equipment and Instruments**

1. All absorbent products used for drying the skin after disinfecting or scrubbing the skin prior to performing a body art procedure or during application of dyes or inks shall be sanitary single-service products and discarded immediately after use into a covered waste container.
2. All instruments and supplies shall be stored in clean, dry, containers.
3. All instruments used for body art procedures shall remain stored in sterile packages until the performance of a body art procedure. Before assembling instruments used for body art procedures, the body art technician shall wash and dry hands, wear single-use medical gloves, and use medically recognized techniques to ensure that the instruments and gloves are not contaminated.
4. All inks, dyes, pigments, needles and equipment shall be specifically manufactured for performing body art procedures and shall be used according to manufacturers' instructions. Immediately before applying a tattoo, tattoo dye shall be transferred from a dye bottle into single-use container(s). Upon completion of a tattoo, used single-use containers and their contents shall be discarded.
5. Only sterile pigments, dyes, or inks shall be used in a body art facility.
6. Single-use, prepackaged, sterilized equipment and supplies shall be obtained from reputable suppliers or manufacturers acceptable to the Department.
7. Acetate stencils may be allowed for reuse if sanitization procedures are performed between uses. Petroleum jellies, soaps, and other products used in the application of stencils shall be dispensed and applied on the skin with sterile gauze or in a manner to prevent contamination of the original container and its contents.

### **Cleaning and Maintenance**

1. Walls, floors, tables, counters, chairs, and other surfaces in the body art procedure area shall be kept clean, disinfected, and in good repair.
2. Floors shall be mopped daily with a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") registered disinfectant.
3. The body art technician shall clean and disinfect the tables, counters, chairs, and other surfaces after each use, regardless of whether contamination is visible. Disinfection shall be carried out using an EPA registered disinfectant and in accordance with the EPA approved label.

4. Sterilization equipment is not required in body art facilities that exclusively use prepackaged, single-use, sterilized equipment and supplies. The owner shall submit a signed disclaimer to the Department for review stating that only pre-sterilized equipment is intended for use while performing any body art procedures.
5. Sterilization equipment shall be kept clean, in good working order, and shall be operated in sanitary area(s) only.
6. After cleaning, all instruments used in a body art procedure shall be packaged individually in paper peel-packs, heat-sealed plastic, or other autoclave packaging acceptable to the Department, then sterilized by a steam, chemical, or dry heat sterilizer registered and listed with the FDA. Such packages must contain a temperature strip or sterilizer indicator listed with the FDA. Sterilization equipment shall be cleaned and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.
7. All packs shall be marked with the date of sterilization. A colorimetric sterilizer indicator or internal temperature indicator shall be used. Equipment packed in peel-packs or heat-sealed plastic and sterilized in house may be considered sterile for a maximum of six (6) months. Commercially available single use ethylene oxide or gamma radiation sterilized equipment may be used as long as all of the manufacturer's recommendations and expiration dates are followed.
8. An autoclave or dry-heat sterilizer shall be tested monthly with a spore destruction test or other test acceptable to the Director. These tests shall be verified through an independent laboratory, and the records shall be retained by the owner for a period of four (4) years and made available to the Department upon request.
9. Single-use, prepackaged, sterilized equipment and supplies shall be obtained from reputable suppliers or manufacturers. Single-use items may not be reused for any reason.
10. Infectious waste shall be handled, stored, transported, and disposed in accordance with state law.
11. The owner shall ensure that the body art facility has an exposure control plan which applies universal precautions as defined in the definitions section of this guideline.
12. Effective measures shall be taken by the owner to protect against the entrance, breeding, or presence of insects, vermin, or rodents within the body art facility.
13. No animals of any kind may be allowed in a body art facility except aquariums in nonprocedural areas and service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

### **Body Art Procedures**

1. All body art procedures shall be worked from an autoclaved tray set-up or tray liner. Trays shall be disposable or made of autoclavable plastic or stainless steel.
2. A body art technician shall inspect each piercing needle immediately before use to ensure the needle has no burrs or irregularities.
3. Before a body art procedure is performed, the immediate area(s) of skin surrounding the body art procedure area shall be washed with soap and water or an approved surgical skin preparation.

4. Prior to any oral piercing, a patron shall be given a small amount of antimicrobial mouthwash in a disposable cup and the patron shall be advised to rinse thoroughly for at least 30 seconds.
5. If shaving is necessary, the skin and surrounding area shall be washed with soap and water after shaving. Single-use disposable razor(s) and washing pad(s) shall be used and discarded after use.
6. The body art technician shall remove excess dye or ink from the skin with a sterile, single-service sponge, gauze, or tissue paper and then immediately discarded into a covered container. After a body art procedure, the body art technician shall wash the procedure area with sterile gauze saturated with a 70% isopropyl alcohol solution or an antiseptic soap solution acceptable to the Director.
7. Upon completion of a body art procedure, the procedure area of the patron's body shall be allowed to dry. Once the procedure area has dried, a body art technician may apply petroleum jelly or antibacterial ointment using sterile gauze. A sterile dressing may be fastened to the area if desired.
8. Upon completion of any body art procedure, a body art technician shall provide each patron Department-approved aftercare instructions for the care of the body art procedure site. The aftercare instructions shall contain the name, address, and phone number of the body art facility, the name, address, and phone number of the Department, and procedures for filing a complaint.
9. The body art technician shall wear single-use medical gloves during personal service station set-up, cleaning, during disinfection and sterilization procedures, when processing contaminated instruments, when transporting sterilized instruments from an autoclave to designated storage space, and during any contact with a patron at a personal service station.
10. The body art technician shall wash hands thoroughly and put on new, unused gloves:
  - A. Before initial skin preparation or marking;
  - B. Before performing any body art procedure;
  - C. Before post-procedure cleanup;
  - D. If the gloves become contaminated by contact with unclean surfaces or objects, or by contact with a third person; and
  - E. Any time a body art technician leaves the personal service station for any reason.
11. Gloves shall be discarded after the completion of any procedure on an individual patron, hands shall be washed with soap and warm water for a minimum of 20 seconds, and dried using clean single-use towels before putting on new gloves. Under no circumstance shall a single pair of gloves be used on more than one person. A body art technician shall discard any gloves which become pierced or torn during any body art procedure. Used gloves shall not be washed, disinfected, or autoclaved. The use of disposable medical gloves is not a substitute for proper hand washing procedures as part of any acceptable personal hygiene program.
12. The body art technician shall remove and discard gloves immediately if a glove is pierced, torn, or otherwise contaminated while performing a body art procedure. The body art technician shall wash and dry hands thoroughly, then put on new, unused gloves before continuing the body art procedure.
13. Any item or instrument that may be exposed to bloodborne pathogen contamination during a procedure shall be discarded or sterilized. Any item or instrument used for body art that may be contaminated during a procedure shall be replaced immediately before resuming the procedure.

14. All jewelry shall be sterile before use in any piercings.

### **Prohibited Procedures**

1. No body art procedure shall be performed on skin surfaces that have a rash, pimple, boil, infection or if the patron manifests symptoms of any communicable disease.
2. No local or topical anesthetic or spray for the purpose of numbing the skin shall be used.
3. No styptic pencils, alum blocks, or other solid styptic materials shall be used to stop the flow of blood. Liquid or powdered astringents may be used to stop the flow of blood if applied with a clean spatula, single-use gauze, or cotton swab.
4. Ear piercing stud and clasp systems shall not be used other than on the lobe of a patron's ear.

### **Patron Forms and Records**

1. A written report of any complication, infection, or disease resulting from any body art procedure shall be submitted to the Department within 24 hours of the owner or body art technician becoming aware of its occurrence. The report shall include:
  - A. The name and address of the affected individual;
  - B. The name and location of the body art facility involved;
  - C. The nature of the injury; and
  - D. Any other information considered relevant to the situation.
2. A body art technician shall require each patron to complete and review the patron form which shall contain the following information:
  - A. The patron's date of birth as verified by a valid, government issued photo identification;
  - B. Whether the patron has any known allergies to latex, iodine, or other products that may be used during the body art procedure;
  - C. Whether the patron has ingested any blood thinning prescription medication, aspirin, or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) within the past 24 hours;
  - D. Whether the patron has consumed alcohol or other intoxicants within the past 24 hours;
  - E. Whether the patron has a condition that might affect the procedure or healing process such as lupus, diabetes, or hemophilia; and
  - F. Whether the patron has eaten within two hours prior to receiving a body art procedure.
3. The patron form shall list risks associated with body art procedures such as the risk of fainting, vomiting, and serious infection, including bacterial endocarditis for patrons with heart condition(s).
4. Each completed patron form shall be signed by the patron and legal guardian if patron is a minor.
  - A. The legal guardian of a minor requesting a body art procedure shall be present at the body art facility when verifying guardianship and signing consent form in compliance with state law.
  - B. Copies of proof of guardianship and any related documentation shall be kept on file at the body art facility with the completed patron form.
5. Body art facility owners shall retain patron forms for a period of at least four years and shall make the patron forms and associated documentation available to the Department upon request.