

Environmental Health Department  
58 St Johns Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1LT



# ELECTROLYSIS

*These notes should be  
read in conjunction with  
the general information  
on skin piercing and the  
bylaws on this subject.*

Although the process of electrolysis does not necessarily break the skin, infections may be transmitted from one person to another via the needle. If the needle is not disposable it must be heat sterilised between customers.

#### **DISPOSABLE NEEDLES**

Disposable needles are available which are designed to be used for one client only. If the treatment for a single client spans more than one session then the same needle may be used for the complete treatment. It is, however, imperative that the needle is accurately identified to the client and that the possibility of the needle being used on more than one client is eliminated.

#### **RE-USABLE NEEDLES**

Re-usable needles must be heat sterilised between clients. An autoclave (pressurised steam steriliser) must be used for this purpose. Dry heat ovens are liable to damage fine needles, and glass bead sterilisers do not always heat the needles evenly or sufficiently to ensure sterilisation (see 'DISINFECTION & STERILISATION' in the Skin Piercing leaflet).

#### **SKIN CLEANING**

The area of skin to be pierced should be wiped over with an alcohol-impregnated swab or with iodine-alcohol solution to disinfect the skin prior to needle insertion.

#### **USED EQUIPMENT**

Equipment used to contain or handle needles, eg, kidney dishes, forceps, etc, must be sterile at the beginning of each session. These can be sterilised at the same time as the batch of needles. After use on each client, needles and any other equipment should be placed in a suitable receptacle prior to cleaning and sterilisation. Equipment used to hold or contain the used needles should be regarded as contaminated and treated in the same way.

#### **WASTE MATERIAL**

Any waste matter contaminated by blood or body fluids, eg, swabs, paper, towels, tissues, etc, must be disposed of in an approved yellow plastic clinical waste sack, clearly marked '**BIOHAZARD. CLINICAL WASTE ONLY. TO BE INCINERATED**'. Small items, eg, swabs, tissues, etc, may be placed in an approved 'sharps' box instead.

Waste matter not contaminated by blood or body fluids should be disposed of in a suitable receptacle lined with a leakproof sealable plastic bag and provided with a close-fitting lid.

**IF YOU REQUIRE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT:**

**LICENSING SECTION**

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