

MICROBLADING

Microblading is a way of depositing colour into the skin in order to look like makeup. A semi-permanent form of eyebrow micropigmentation is performed using a pen-sized blade with a tip composed of several tiny needles/blades. The pigment is applied to the site and then pushed under the skin manually using the microblade.

INFECTION RISKS

Disease-causing microorganisms can enter the tissue under the skin or mucous membrane at the procedure site and cause an infection. Equipment can become contaminated with bacteria, fungi and viral blood borne disease-causing microorganisms such as hepatitis B virus, hepatitis C virus or human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Infections can spread from:

- Contaminated and/or improperly reprocessed equipment or pigment ink
- Tap water used to dilute the pigment ink
- Client's own bacteria on the skin
- Unclean hands touching the treatment area

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

Equipment:

- Blades for microblading cannot be reused. They must be discarded in an approved sharps container after use
- Handles/blade holders can be reused. These must be cleaned and high-level disinfected before and after use
- Blades are not to be saved for reuse on the same client
- Approved sharps containers must be stored at point of use
- All reusable equipment/instruments/items are to be reprocessed after each use
- Single-use ink caps (and when provided in bulk) are to be cleaned with soap and water and disinfected before use. Use an intermediate-level disinfectant such as 70% isopropyl alcohol with a Natural Product Number (NPN) to immerse the ink caps for the required contact time as per the manufacturer's instructions for use
- All supplies required for the microblading procedure are to be assembled and set-up immediately before the procedure
- All reusable uncovered equipment and instruments such as service trays, squeeze bottles, electric devices, machines and controls must be cleaned and disinfected with an intermediate-level solution between clients. If they are covered by a single-use wrap, they may be cleaned and disinfected with a low-level disinfectant

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- Materials used for dressings are to be kept in a cleanable rigid container with a tight-fitting lid to protect from contamination
- Leftover pigment ink, petroleum jelly and other items dispensed during the microblading procedure are to be discarded and are not to be reused

Operational Requirements:

- The service provider checks the client's skin for open cuts, wounds, and signs of infection. If found, service is refused
- Skin that is visibly soiled must be cleaned with soap and water before starting the procedure
- Operators are to apply skin antiseptic to the area of the client's skin that is being treated
- Only topical local anesthetic approved for use by Health Canada is permitted. The site is to be cleaned with a suitable skin antiseptic before applying the anesthetic.
- If hair removal is required, a single-use razor is to be used and discarded in an approved sharps container
- If inks are diluted, sterile water is to be used. Tap water is not to be used
- Clients are to be provided with verbal and written aftercare information following the procedure, including a recommendation to see a doctor within 24 hours if any signs of infection develop

Reprocessing Classification

Sterilization	High-Level Disinfection	Low-Level Disinfection	Single-Use, Disposable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reusable metal ink caps* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microblade handle/blade holders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measuring calipers/mapping tools • Tweezers • Scissors • Tables, chairs, beds • Rigid containers used to hold dirty equipment until reprocessing (at end of day) • Service trays ‡ • Squeeze bottles ‡ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microblading needles/blades • Needle cartridges • Pigment rings/cups • Bandages to cover tattoos • Cups and liquids used for rinsing between colours • Numbing cream • Lubricant applicators • Marking pens • Plastic covers • Razors/brow shapers • Single-use ink caps** • Ointment applicators • Single-use personal protective equipment (gloves, masks, gowns, eye protection) • Wipes, tissues, and dental bibs

*These items are to be sterile before use

** These items are to be **intermediate-level disinfected** before use

‡ If covered with a sheath/cover during use; low-level. If not, reprocess as a non-critical, intermediate-level disinfection item as long as it can be easily or adequately cleaned and disinfected between each use

SOURCES

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Guide to infection prevention and control in personal service settings. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2019