

Electrolysis

Infection Prevention and Control Information for Operators

What is the Health Risk?

Instruments and equipment used for electrolysis may become contaminated with blood or body fluids that contain blood-borne infections such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. Other infections, such as fungal or bacterial infections, may occur if equipment is not properly cleaned and disinfected.

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

Protect Yourself

- Wash your hands well before and after each client. Use liquid soap under warm running water and then dry with a disposable paper towel.
- Alcohol-based hand rubs can be used as an alternative to hand washing if hands are not visibly soiled.
- A new pair of gloves must be used on each client and changed between breaks on the same client.
- Hands must be washed before and after using gloves.
- Ensure the area of the client's body you will be working on is free from any cuts, wounds, rashes or visible infections.
- Needles must be discarded immediately after use into an approved sharps container labeled "biohazard."
- Keep your vaccinations up-to-date:
 - Hepatitis B vaccine – 3 doses
 - Tetanus vaccine – every 10 years
 - Influenza vaccine – every year

Protect Your Clients

- Have all required supplies and equipment within reach prior to starting service.
- Use sterile, prepackaged needles and open sterile packaging in view of the client.
- Single-use, disposable, sterile needle holder caps/tips are strongly recommended.
- Use tweezers that have been cleaned and disinfected with a high-level disinfectant to insert needle into the epilator holder. See **Disinfection of Instruments and Equipment** chart.
- Do not re-use needles on the same client.
- Cleanse the area of the skin with an antiseptic, using a sterile, disposable swab (e.g. alcohol, iodine or chlorhexidine).
- Use sterile lancets/needles to expose ingrown hair, not tweezers.
- Tweezers can be used to pull the hair out once hair is exposed.
- Tweezers must be cleaned and then disinfected with an intermediate- or high-level disinfectant after each client. See **Disinfection of Instruments and Equipment** chart.
- Clean and disinfect the epilator buttons/knob and controls after each client using a low-level disinfectant. See **Disinfection of Instruments and Equipment** chart.
- Cover the epilator cord with single-use, disposable plastic OR clean and then disinfect with an intermediate- to high-level disinfectant after each client. See **Disinfection of Instruments and Equipment** chart.
- Clean and disinfect headrests, worktables, chairs, magnifying lamps etc. after each client using a low-level disinfectant.
- Provide aftercare instructions to the client.
- Keep accidental blood exposure records on site for a minimum of one year and on file for five years. Records must include the following information:
 - First and last name of person exposed
 - Address and phone number of person exposed
 - First and last name of personal service worker involved
 - Date of injury
 - Site of injury
 - Circumstances surrounding incident
 - How equipment was cleaned and disinfected following incident
 - Action taken

**For more information please contact the Infectious Disease Control Team at
519-663-5317 ext. 2330 or go to www.healthunit.com**

Source:

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. (2009). *Infection prevention and control best practices for personal services settings*. Retrieved from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/pubhealth/oph_standards/ophs/progstds/pdfs/psp_2008.pdf

Date of creation: July 2011

Last modified on: November 2012