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## FACT SHEET - SKIN PENETRATION

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### What type of premises require inspection?

Skin penetration premises are premises where any of the following procedures are carried out:

- Tattooing (including cosmetic tattooing);
- Piercing (includes all types of body piercing);
- Acupuncture;
- Hair removal;
- Pedicure and Manicure (including gel and acrylic nail application and maintenance);
- Any beauty treatment which involves the deliberate penetration or removal of skin; or
- Any procedure that involves skin penetration such as piercing of the body, hair removal, cosmetic enhancement, and beauty treatment where deliberate penetration or removal of skin is involved.



#### Why are inspections undertaken?

To protect public health, Councils are required to inspect all businesses that undertake activities involving any of those listed above. The premises are required to be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition and suitably constructed to ensure hygienic conditions. Inspections are carried out to ensure:



- Minimisation of the potential to spread disease such as Hepatitis;
- Infection control techniques & procedures are being followed;
- Premises are clean and fitted out correctly;
- Articles and equipment are clean and appropriate for the procedure;
- Single use items are used only once;
- Personal Protective Equipment is used;
- Records are kept;
- Premises are registered with Council.

#### How often will my premises be inspected?

The number of inspections you receive will depend on the type of skin penetration procedures carried out on your premises. Generally one (1) inspection is undertaken annually, but premises that perform complex skin penetration procedures (such as tattooists and body piercing premises) are considered high risk and may require more than one (1) inspection. Premises that are found to require works to be undertaken will require re-inspections.

#### What is the difference between cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation?

Cleaning is the physical removal of dirt and residue from equipment surfaces by washing in detergent and warm water to reduce the number of micro-organisms. It is essential for equipment to be cleaned prior to disinfection or sterilization.

Disinfection is the process of killing disease causing micro-organisms through either thermal or chemical methods. Disinfection does not kill bacterial spores that can be present on equipment that penetrates the skin.

Sterilization is the killing of all micro-organisms including bacterial spores. All equipment used to penetrate the skin must be sterile and can either be purchased in single use pre-sterilized packets or cleaned and sterilized on the premises with an approved autoclave prior to each use.

### **What do I do with my waste?**

Sharps waste (needles and lances) and clinical waste (single use equipment soiled with blood) is classified as “hazardous waste” and must be disposed of correctly to prevent infection. Sharps should be placed into an approved yellow plastic sharps container which is puncture resistant and leak proof.



Clinical waste and sealed sharps containers must be collected and disposed through a licensed contractor. The disposal of sharps into the general waste stream is dangerous and illegal.

### **Where can I get further information?.**

For any further information refer to NSW Health Fact Sheets which can be downloaded from the [NSW Health Web site](#) or contact Council's Civil and Environmental Services Department on (02) 6728 8200.