

A Summary Of The By-laws For Acupuncture, Tattooing, Semi-Permanent Skin-Colouring, Cosmetic Piercing and Electrolysis

Scope

The rules in the byelaws apply to any business in the Epping Forest District who provides:

- acupuncture
- tattooing
- semi-permanent skin-colouring
- cosmetic piercing, or
- electrolysis.

It doesn't matter where the treatments are provided. The business could be a salon on the high street, or a dedicated treatment room in a private home; the same rules apply.

The rules don't apply to registered medical practitioners (doctors, nurses and dentists) who provide these treatments, because they are governed by similar restrictions that are policed by different authorities.

The Premises & The Treatment Area

- The parts of the building used by the business — the walls, floors, windows, doors, etc. — should be in good repair, clean and capable of being kept clean.
- Treatments should be carried out in a treatment area that is only used for this purpose. The exception to this rule is for ear-piercing or nose-piercing treatments.
- The floor of the treatment area should be made of a smooth, sealed, non-absorbent surface that is capable of being cleaned properly. The only exception to this rule is for ear-piercing or nose-piercing treatments.
- There should be an appropriate number of safe gas points and electrical sockets to enable the treatments to be carried out.
- There should be an adequate and constant supply of clean hot and cold water.

- There should be reasonable washing facilities, appropriately located, only for the use of people providing treatments, including an adequate and constant supply of clean hot and cold water, soap or detergent. Where the treatment is only nose or ear piercing using a piercing machine, such as a Studex or similar — and the washing facilities include a hygienic hand gel or liquid cleaner — other people can also use the washing facilities.
- There should be enough toilets and urinals in the building for the use of the people providing treatments.

Furnishings & Fittings

- All furniture and accessories in the premises — e.g. a treatment bench — should be in good repair, clean and capable of being kept clean.
- Any furniture or surface in the treatment area coming into contact with the client, and any surface on which a needle or equipment is placed immediately prior to treatment, should be of a smooth, sealed, non-absorbent surface.
- Any furniture used in treatment should be covered by a disposable paper sheet that is changed after each client.
- There should be clean and appropriate storage facilities that prevent the contamination of needles, instruments and equipment.
- No eating, drinking, or smoking is permitted in the treatment area, and notices stating “No Smoking”, and “No Eating or Drinking” should be displayed somewhere that people can clearly see them.

Preventing The Spread of Diseases

- Any furniture or surface in the treatment area coming into contact with the client, and any surface on which a needle or equipment is placed immediately prior to treatment should be disinfected immediately after use and at the end of the working day.
- Rubbish and left over materials should be handled and disposed of appropriately, according to what they are. For example, used needles should be disposed of in sharps bins that are collected by a licensed waste contractor.
- Any needle used should be single-use and disposable where practical, or otherwise be sterilised for each treatment. All needles should be stored safely after treatment and disposed of legally, and in a way that follows any guidance from the local authority.

- Unless one-use pre-sterilised items are used, there should be adequate facilities and equipment for the cleansing and sterilisation of needles and other materials.

Materials

- Materials such as gowns, wraps or other protective clothing, paper or other covering, towels, cloths, etc. used in treatment, should be clean and in good repair. Where appropriate to prevent the spread of diseases, they should also be sterile. Clients should not share use of these items unless they are made of materials that can be and have been properly cleaned (and sterilised, where that would be appropriate).
- Needles, equipment used in treatment, and any part of a piercing instrument that touches a client, must be sterile. Normally this will through use of pre-sterilised products, but where they are not, these items will be properly sterilised between uses.
- Jewellery used for cosmetic piercing must be sterile.
- Dye used for tattooing or semi-permanent skin-colouring must be sterile and non-reactive.
- Any container used to hold dye for tattooing or semi-permanent skin-colouring should either be disposed of at the end of each treatment or be cleaned and sterilised before re-use.

Personal Hygiene for People Providing Treatments

- Hands and nails should be clean. Nails should be trimmed short.
- Any open wound on an exposed part of the body should be covered properly by a waterproof dressing.
- New unused disposable examination gloves shall be worn during treatments. The only exception to this is for acupuncture treatments, but even then, if the client is bleeding or has an open wound, the client is known to be infected with a blood-borne virus, the person providing treatment has an open wound on their hand or is handling items that might be contaminated with blood or body fluids, then the person performing acupuncture should also wear disposable gloves.
- A person providing a treatment should wear protective clothing that is clean and washable, or a new unused disposable covering.
- A person providing treatment should not smoke, eat or drink in the treatment area.

Providing Treatments In Other People's Premises

- Anyone providing these treatments must have a permanent business address and a designated treatment room (whether they are on the high street or in a converted part of a private home), but they are allowed to provide treatments in other people's buildings (normally in a client's home), once they are registered.
- Mobile providers must still follow the rules that are in the above sections: preventing the spread of diseases, materials and personal hygiene.