



GREAT LAKES COUNCIL

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Fact Sheet

**E-SP
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WAXING

This section explains safe practices, minimum standards, and infection control procedures and incorporates “best practice” information for owner/s operators of skin penetration premises. The risk of transmission of infection can be minimised by ensuring that premises are maintained in a clean and hygienic manner, “Standard Precautions” are used, effective sterilisation of equipment is achieved and waste is disposed of correctly.

Unsafe or unhygienic procedures may affect the health of both the client and the operator. Where procedures involving skin penetration are not managed correctly, they may transmit bacterial, fungal and viral infections, including HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C.

The aims are to minimise the risk of transmission of micro-organisms, promote safe work environments, promote public awareness of safe working practices and procedures and to be user friendly.

Waxing –

Body hair is associated with the accumulation of micro-organisms. The upper lip, pubic area (bikini line) and under arms are either moist or close to moist areas resulting in the presence of increased numbers of micro-organisms. The process of hair removal with wax also removes the micro-organisms, upper skin layers and wound scabs. Contamination of the wax occurs as a result of the procedure.

Melting wax does not destroy micro-organisms. The contact of wax with the skin may result in the transfer of infection from one client to another. All wax is single use and must be discarded immediately after use. Roll on wax applicators must not be re-used. Applicators for applying wax must not be redipped as this will cause contamination of the wax. Re-useable wax applicators must be cleaned between clients.

Manicuring

Fungal infections are transferable through manicuring especially when introducing files under the cuticle. It is recommended that all equipment is single-use and is disposed of immediately after use.

Pedicures

Rasping of corns and callouses on feet should only be carried out using single use disposable equipment.

Lancing Skin

Must be prepared prior to procedure to remove micro-organisms by washing and application of a skin antiseptic. Treatments such as removal of blackheads and pimples require that the skin be penetrated using sharp equipment such as a lance. Sterile single-use equipment must be used.

Tweezers

Must be cleaned between use on clients.

Paraffin Baths

Apply a skin antiseptic before insertion of body parts into the paraffin bath. Dispose of peeled paraffin as soon as it is removed from client.

Equipment

- Protective gowns, capes, towels must be changed once soiled and at least daily.
- Skin penetrating devices must be sterile. Single use and disposable equipment is recommended.
- Make-up brushes should be cleaned between clients.