



## **MICROBLADING SERVICES** *in Personal Service Establishments*

### **WHAT IS MICROBLADING?**

Microblading – sometimes called eyebrow feathering, eyebrow embroidery, eyebrow micro-pigmentation, micro-stroking and 3D brows – is a manual, semi-permanent, cosmetic tattoo procedure. The blade of the instrument (tool) used for microblading is made up of a row of fine needles. These needles are dipped into colour pigment (ink) and placed into the skin with a slicing motion. This technique creates the impression of a fuller, natural eyebrow. Techniques include:



- The powdery filled technique: involves filling in areas that already have eyebrow hair with a soft or darker color that varies in transparency. This technique is best for enhancement of the eyebrow.
- Soft hair stroke technique: in which very fine hairline strokes are created to replicate appearance of individual hairs. This technique is ideal for people with very little or no eyebrow hair.
- Feathering: is a combination of the shading and hair stroke techniques. Strokes are made close to one another, creating a shaded, dimensional eyebrow.
- The Ombre technique: uses two colour pigments, one lighter than the other. The tail of the brow is darker and fades into a light start to the brow, giving a natural look.

Microblading is a personal service and is regulated under the *Public Health Act* – Regulated Activities Regulation. All microblading establishments should be approved by an environmental health officer. Note: This document does not address microblading performed with a motorized tool.

### **WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

Like other forms of tattooing, microblading involves breaking the skin. If the microblading equipment is not sterile, there is risk of transmitting infectious diseases, such as HIV, hepatitis B and C, and skin infections. Allergic reactions to inks and scarring from repeated tattooing are also risks of microblading.

### **WHAT TRAINING IS REQUIRED?**

There is no specific, legally-required training for people offering microblading services. However, since microblading is an invasive procedure, owners and operators of salons offering microblading should have training in infection prevention and control. Training should be provided in an appropriate setting, such as a cosmetology school, academy or spa.

Hand washing and infection prevention and control procedures are critical in preventing a health hazard. It is important to review these procedures with your environmental health officer.

**TREATMENT ROOMS**

The operator should ensure microblading services are not located adjacent to incompatible services, such as hair dressing, other esthetic procedures or in areas accessible to the public. If microblading services are located in an open area of a hair salon, the microblading wound, equipment or treatment surfaces could become contaminated with hair cuttings.

**DISINFECTION AND STERILIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

Microblading procedures are similar to tattooing. Follow the *Guidelines for Body Modification* and the *Guidelines for Personal Service Establishments*. Both documents are available on the Ministry of Health website at: [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/keeping-bc-healthy-safe/pses-mpes](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/keeping-bc-healthy-safe/pses-mpes). Single-use and disinfection requirements for microblading tools are as follows:

ITEM	CATEGORY	LEVEL OF DISINFECTION
Blades	Critical	Single-use only
Head and blade grip of handle	Critical	Single-use only
Handles with attached head and blade grip	Critical	Single-use only
Detachable handle* (separate from head and blade)	Critical	Single-use Only
Brow pencils	Non-critical	Low-level disinfectant, then sharpen
Dividers, rulers	Non-critical	Low-level disinfectant
Eyebrow scissors	Non-critical	Low-level disinfectant
Ink cups	Critical	Single-use only
Ink cup rings	Critical	Single-use only
Tweezers	Semi-critical	High-level disinfectant

\*Some handles and grips are hospital-grade and may be considered for autoclaving at environment health officer’s discretion.

**PIGMENTS**

Operators should use colour pigments that comply with Health Canada’s Cosmetic Regulations. Pigments should be discarded between clients and expiry dates should be checked regularly.

**WRAPPING HANDLES IN PLASTIC IS NOT ALLOWED**

Plastic wrap cannot effectively prevent body fluid contamination of the head, grip and handle of the microblading tool. The plastic wrap may also interfere with the procedure, causing safety issues.

**NUMBING AGENTS**

Due to skin sensitivity near the eyebrows, numbing agents may be used. Agents should comply with Health Canada’s *Topical Anaesthetic/Analgesic/Antipruritic Labelling Standard* for labelling and application.

**CONSENT FORMS**

As recommended in the *Guidelines for Body Modification*, a consent form should be signed by the client. Additional information and an example of a consent form are located in the guideline (the example is for piercing and will need to be modified for microblading). The consent form should be kept for the purposes of tracing back contact information for people who may have been the source of an infectious disease.