

SKIN PIERCING REGISTRATION

Application for registration

Anyone wishing to carry out procedures resulting in the piercing of skin namely: -

- Tattooing;
- skin-piercing (includes ear, nose and cosmetic piercing);
- semi-permanent skin colouring (including microblading);
- electrolysis;
- acupuncture; and
- derma-rolling

must apply for registration. Registration is required for the premises used for skin piercing AND for any person(s) performing skin piercing activities, including those mentioned above.

How much will this cost?

A list of the current fees can be found [here](#) . We are legally required to separate out the application fee, which must be paid at the time you submit your application form and the administration/enforcement fee, which must be paid at the time of issue. All these fees are a one-off payment; there is no ongoing charge following successful completion of the registration process. The fee covers the cost of processing an application, a site visit and the production and issue of a certificate(s) of registration.

What will happen before my premises are visited?

After receiving the initial payment and a completed application for registration, an authorised officer will make contact and arrange a convenient time to visit.

What will happen when my premises are visited?

During the visit the officer will undertake an inspection of the premises, procedures and equipment and will ask you to demonstrate how you intend to perform your particular treatment. This will require any equipment to be set up so that you can talk through the assembly, operation, disassembly and cleaning etc. The officer will also need to view all relevant documentation, including client consent/consultation documents, medical questionnaires, written aftercare advice, clinical waste contract/waste transfer notes and maintenance records for work equipment, together with manufacturer's instructions.

To ensure there is a consistent standard of premises and enforcement, the officer will have regard to local and national guidance, in particular the [CIEH Tattooing and body piercing guidance Toolkit](#) and the North Yorkshire and York Audit Tool for Infection Prevention and Control Assessment of Tattoo/Piercing Licensed Premises.

The officer will also check compliance with the [local byelaws](#). If you are unsure as to how to meet any of the requirements, an officer will be able to assist you.

What are the legal requirements I have to comply with?

Under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 byelaws have been adopted detailing minimum standards to be achieved. However, these activities are also covered by health and safety legislation. Collectively these ensure the safety of the public and the practitioner at work.

The Expected Standards Include

(A) Premises

Any treatment room used for the above must have a hand wash basin supplied with hot and cold running water, soap and hygienic hand drying materials e.g. disposable paper towels. Nail brushes should not be used as they are difficult to clean and disinfect and can be a significant source of infection.

All surfaces in the treatment areas must be capable of being cleaned and disinfected.

All furniture and fittings in the treatment area must be kept clean and in good repair.

Tables, couches, seats etc used in the treatment area must have a smooth, impervious surface which is capable of being cleaned and disinfected.

(B) Cleanliness of operatives

Clothing worn by practitioners must be clean and in good repair.

Hands and nails must be kept clean.

Any open cut, wound, sore or boil must be suitably covered by an impermeable dressing.

No eating or drinking is permitted in any treatment room.

(C) Equipment

All needles must be sterile and single use.

All equipment which may become contaminated by bodily fluids e.g. grips, tips and clamps etc. must either be single use or capable of being cleaned and sterilised.

All jewellery must also be sterile.

(D) Documentation

The documentation required will vary depending upon the activity being carried out and the size and nature of your business, but the following key documents will always be required, namely: -

- Client consent/consultation form;
- Medical questionnaire;
- Written aftercare advice; and
- Clinical waste/sharps contract.

What will happen after the inspection?

If the officer considers the applicant's procedures and premises to be safe and hygienic, then registration will be issued. A record of inspection will be left at the time of visit confirming the outcome.

For further advice please contact Harrogate Borough Council Licensing Team

Tel: 01423 556843 Email licensing@harrogate.gov.uk

FAQs

What is disinfection and sterilisation?

“Sterilisation” – is the complete elimination of all microbial life. It must be a robustly efficient process, guaranteed to work on every occasion. For most practical purposes, this will require the use of a vacuum autoclave together with associated monitoring and records confirming that the correct temperature and pressure is reached on each and every autoclave cycle.

“Disinfection” – is a lower standard of microbial reduction and is only appropriate for non-invasive items and work surfaces. It will normally be achieved through the use of chemicals, for example a hypochlorite solution containing 1,000 parts per million available chlorine (ppm av Cl). You must ensure that the appropriate dilution and contact time is achieved for it to be effective.

Can I be registered if I am not operating from a fixed premises?

In some cases, practitioners only or primarily work in the homes of their clients. We can and will register practitioners in such circumstances but the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 requires us to register each and every practitioner at a fixed premises. It is acceptable for us to register your home as an operating base where you store equipment and documentation etc. Where you live outside the Harrogate District you will need to have an operating base within the district; this may be an existing premises registered for the same activity. Should you wish to have and operate from a treatment room in your home, you will need to contact the Council's Development Services Section to ensure that the proposed use does not require planning consent.

NOTE: If you are proposing to work in the homes of your clients, you will need to risk assess your work to ensure that it is safe to do so and that you have access to for example adequate hand wash facilities and a safe electricity supply. You also need to have considered the risks from lone working and ensure that the transportation of equipment and consumables is both safe and hygienic. Any sharps must be transported in a suitable, labelled container.