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Evaluations

Please visit

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to fill out your evaluation and post test.

Nursing Contact Hours, CME, CHES are available.

We also encourage you to take our short survey on the format of this particular webcast. There will be a link sent to your e-mail after the program.

Thank you!

Local Regulation of Tattooing & Body Piercing

Albany and Schenectady County Experience

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History of Tattooing

- Body art or adornment has been practiced for thousands of years; the earliest dating back some 5,200 years discovered on the "Iceman" found in 1991 on the Italian-Austrian border. *Flether; University of York*
- Tattoos have been used as adornments, status symbols, declarations of love, religious symbols, and even punishments
- Mummified remains of Egyptian women were commonly found to be tattooed dating back to 2000 b.c.; further evidence from statues indicate tattooing practiced in Egypt 4000-3500 b.c.
- Early tattooing instruments are thought to have been sharp points set into wooden handles. Grouped together the points made similar repeating patterns on the skin
- Tattoos were made by introducing soot and other earth pigments under skin



Mummified tattooed hand
900-1350 A.D.

Need for Regulation

- **Prevent the transmission of bloodborne pathogens;**
 - Hep B - (HBV) mild to severe illness, can lead to liver disease or cancer
 - Hep C - (HCV) most often chronic illness leading to cirrhosis or cancer
 - HIV - immunodeficiency leading to several types of cancers
 - other skin condition & infections - MRSA, tetanus, keloids, necrotizing fasciitis
- **Protection of the client and tattoo/body piercing artists alike**
- **Curtail "home" or "garage" tattoos**



Need for Regulation

- Health Alert regarding unlicensed Tattoo artist in Niagara Falls area and another in Broome County
- 2 clients tattooed at private party in Broome county incident; 1 confirmed MRSA - 8 clients w/ infections from Niagara County; 3 confirmed MRSA
- Sanitary procedures in both incidents questionable
- NYSHD recommended clients undergo testing for bloodborne pathogen illnesses



Tattoo Infections



Local Health Dept. Response

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albany County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local law passed in 1999 • Law passed to regulate permanent tattoo locations and artists working at Albany County tattoo shops and body piercing locations in Albany County • Requires all tattoo shops to be permitted and inspected at least once yearly • Requires artist to prove competency to measure knowledge of the Albany County law and universal precaution procedures • Requires notarized parental approval for piercing of minors (excluding lobe and outer perimeter of ear) • Set up enforcement procedures for non-compliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schenectady County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local law passed in 1993 • Code passed to regulate both permanent and temporary tattoo vendors operating within Schenectady County • Law amended in 1999 to include body piercing • Requires all tattoo and body piercers to be under permit and subject to routine inspection • Set clear sanitary standards for operation • Set up enforcement procedures for non-compliance |
|--|--|

Albany County

- Law was pass by Albany County Legislature in July of 1999.
- Rules and regulations were promulgated in December of 1999 to regulate all artists and tattoo establishments in the County of Albany
- 20 Tattoo, Tattoo/body piercing facilities(2008)
- 9 Piercing (only) facilities
- 60 certified artists (2008)
- All established tattoo/body piercing shops are inspected at a minimum of once yearly. New establishments are inspected pre-operationally and then once yearly
- Piercing facilities are inspected on a complaint basis and records are reviewed once yearly. Piercing facilities that do not include tattooing are not required to hold a permit, but are also checked yearly
- Temporary tattoo expositions or facilities are permitted only if pre-approved by the Albany County Commissioner of Health

Schenectady County

- Local code passed as a result of large unregulated "tattoo expo" 50+ vendors
- 14 permanent tattoo studios (10 studios; 3 cosmetic; 1 tattoo school)
- 24 permitted artists; 18 tattooists, 6 body piercing studios; 6 artists doing body piercing
- Tattoo shops are inspected a minimum of twice yearly. New facilities receive pre-operational inspection prior to operation
- Approximately 20-30 temporary tattoo vendors permitted each year
- Harley-Rendezvous; Camp Bisco music festival



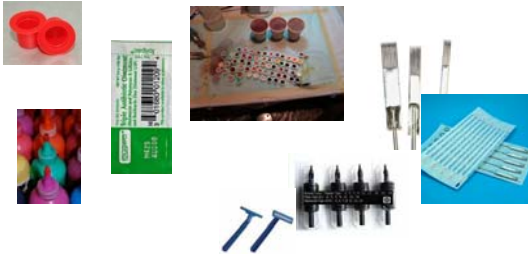
Code Requirements

- Single use – disposable needles, razors, ink cups, etc.
- Safe disposal – needles and razors require disposal in regulated bio-hazard containers
- Hand washing and disposable glove use
- Clean & sanitary work surfaces and areas



Code requirements

- Single use – one per customer.



Code Requirements

- Safe disposal of contaminated materials



Code Requirements

- Handwashing and disposable gloves



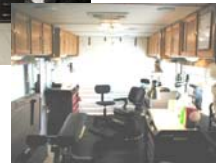
Proper hand hygiene will break to chain of infection bloodborne illnesses

Disposable gloves use must be "married" with handwashing



Code Requirements

- Clean Sanitary Surfaces and Work Area



Code Requirements

- Sterilization equipment
- Use of pre-sterilized needles and tubes
- EO gas – Ethylene Oxide; most common sterilization method used; 50% of all disposable medical devices use EO gas



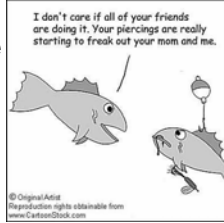
Tattoo Process

- When all parts of the tattoo process are adhered to the procedure can prevent the transmission of illness
- Single use equipment
- Safe disposal of contaminated materials
- Handwashing and proper glove use
- Proper sanitation



Body Piercing

- Hand washing and glove use required
- Use of pre-sterilized jewelry and punches
- Prone to infections due to sensitive areas pierced (tongue, cartilage areas, genitalia)



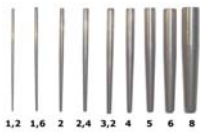
Body Piercing

- Pre-sterilized jewelry

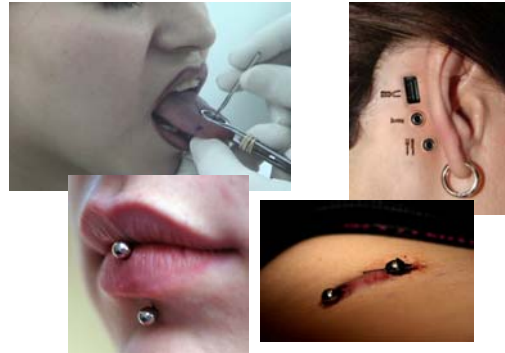


Body Piercing

- Piercing equipment



Body Piercing



Extreme Piercing

Think Before You Pierce



The Next Frontier

Future Regulation?

- Under the skin piercings – metal or silicone forms placed under the skin
- Highly prone to infection; much more invasive



The Next Frontier

Future Regulation?

- Branding – body modification done by heating a metal form and branding the skin
- Extremely painful; can result in nerve and severe tissue damage and infection is common
- May require hospitalization if improperly done; too much pressure or temperature



Body Modification

Public Health Live (T²B²)

- University of Albany, School of Public Health - Public Health Live; free webcast on Body Modification on December 18th; 9-10 a.m.
- <http://www.albany.edu/sph/coned/t2b2.htm> - click on body modification link and register online
- Interview with Schenectady County Public Health officials and inspectors on tattooing and body piercing
- Mock inspection and interview with shop owner



Words of Wisdom

Know Your Body Modification Artist



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