

# Invasive Personal Services Information Sheet

## What are Invasive Personal Services?

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Invasive personal services is the general term for elective cosmetic procedures that penetrate the body either by incision or insertion of an item through the skin or any other means intended to puncture, break, or compromise the skin. This includes nail services, tattooing, microblading, and body piercings. Body modification is the general term for deliberately altering a person's body for nonmedical purposes.

Common body modification procedures include tattooing and body piercing or elective cosmetic surgical procedures performed by a physician or other registered health professional. For information on tattooing and piercing, please see procedure-specific fact sheets. Other, less common body modification services include scarification, branding, transdermal and micro-dermal implants, pearling, tongue splitting, and eye tattooing.

## What are the Potential Risks?

- Transmission of infectious diseases, such as HIV, hepatitis B and C, and skin infections
- Allergic reactions to pigments/inks
- Injury, severe burns, paralysis, hyperpigmentation, and unwanted scarring

## Who regulates Invasive Personal Services in Saskatchewan?

Personal services include body modification and invasive services, including nail services, microblading, tattooing and piercing, are regularly inspected by public health inspectors. Personal services deemed “non-invasive” are inspected on a complaint or request basis only.

Cosmetic services provided by physicians or under the scope of registered professional practice (i.e. registered nurse, massage therapist, etc.) are not subject to routine inspections by public health inspectors.

## How are Infectious Diseases Transmitted and Prevented?

SOURCE	TRANSMISSION	What can an Operator do for Prevention?
Operator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of handwashing</li><li>• Inadequate infection control measures</li><li>• Person to person</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thorough hand washing at appropriate times</li><li>• Thorough hand rubbing with hand sanitizer</li><li>• Proper use of disposable gloves</li><li>• Refraining from work with active signs and symptoms or a lab positive for a communicable disease</li></ul>
Client	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cross-contamination (i.e. from skin bacteria)</li><li>• Person to person</li><li>• Poor aftercare</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Antiseptic used body site before procedure</li><li>• Do not perform procedure on or near irritated skin</li><li>• Refrain from performing services on clients with active signs and symptoms or a lab positive for a communicable disease</li><li>• Do not touch contaminated area on client with clean gloves</li><li>• Provide proper after care instructions to clients</li></ul>
Equipment/ Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improper disinfection</li><li>• Re-use of soiled, single-use instruments</li><li>• Contamination</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sterilize or disinfect re-usable equipment</li><li>• Properly discard single-use utensils after use</li><li>• Do not let tools come in contact with unclean surfaces/tools</li><li>• Check and record lot number, expiry date, and package integrity of tools and pigments/ink prior to procedure</li></ul>

## Examples of Invasive Personal Services

**Scarification:** The process of creating a design or pattern by breaking the skin. Colour can be added by rubbing pigments into freshly cut skin.

There are two main types:

**Branding** uses heat or electricity to burn the skin. Strike branding, uses pieces of heated metal, cautery branding which uses soldering iron-type devices, and electric branding uses medical electrocautery units.

**Cutting** uses a sharp blade, usually a medical scalpel, to cut the skin. Sometimes pieces of the skin are removed.

**Transdermal implanting:** The process of inserting an object partially below and above the skin. The skin around it generally heals as if it were a piercing. This includes micro-dermal implanting where anchor is implanted underneath the skin, and jewelry attached to the surface of the anchor on the surface of the skin.

**Body Shaping:** The process of altering the shape of a body part. This includes stretching pierced holes (gauges), tongue splitting, and elfin ears.

**Beading, implanting, or pearling:** The implantation of small beads or other small objects under the skin. The beads or objects are made of stainless steel, nylon, Teflon or silicone. Incisions are made to the skin, the beads or objects are inserted beneath the skin and then the openings are closed with suture tape.



Tongue scarification. <https://www.cvltnation.com/scars-at-their-finest-scarification-2/>; Micro-dermal piercing. <http://www.piercing-shops.net/microdermal-piercing/>



## Instrument Reprocessing

There are a wide variety of tools and equipment used in invasive aesthetics. They can be broadly grouped using the Equipment and Tool Categorization table below. Each categorization will have specific cleaning and disinfection or sterilization requirements. Please discuss with your local public health inspector and refer to “Instrument Reprocessing – Disinfection” and “Instrument Reprocessing – Sterilization” Fact Sheets for more detailed information and examples.

### Equipment and Tool Categorization

<b>Critical</b>	Any instrument intended to penetrate the skin or mucous membrane, or contact the puncture site, contact blood or body fluid, or a sterile instrument before puncturing the skin.
<b>Semi-critical</b>	Any instrument intended to contact non-intact skin or a mucous membrane but does not penetrate it.
<b>Non-critical</b>	Any instrument intended to contact intact skin, but may accidentally contact non-intact skin or receive blood or body fluid splatter.
	Any instrument or equipment that does not directly contact the client or contacts only intact skin.

For Further Information, please contact your local Public Health Inspector (PHI). A list of PHI offices can be found here:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/public-health/public-health-inspectors>

The Saskatchewan Personal Services Best Management Practices and other Saskatchewan personal service fact sheets can be found here: <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/environment-public-health-and-safety/environmental-health/personal-service-facilities>