

Electrolysis and Laser Hair Removal

Electrolysis is a method of permanent hair removal. Common areas treated include the chin, legs and eye brows. During electrolysis, an electric current is conducted through a needle inserted into the hair follicle, destroying hair growth cells.

The heat produced by the current passing through an electrolysis needle will not cause the needle to become hot enough to be sterilized. The temperature is only likely to reach 70-80°C and the period that the current passes through the needle is too short (1-2 seconds only) for sterilization to occur.

Additional Requirements to the General Guidelines

- i. Needles used for electrolysis must be single-use, disposable, sterile. **Never re-use needles.**
- ii. The removable tip/cap of the epilator needle/probe holder must be cleaned and at a minimum, disinfected with a high-level disinfectant after each client. Refer to Tables 1 and 2.
- iii. The epilator cord may come in contact with the client's treated skin. The cord must be protected with a non absorbent single-use disposable cover and changed between each client or cleaned then disinfected with an intermediate or high-level disinfectant between clients.

Equipment/instruments used in laser hair removal must be cleaned then either disinfected or sterilized or disposed of as appropriate after each client. Refer to Cleaner (Section 5.2), Sterilization (Section 5.5), and Tables 1 and 3

Reusable equipments used to remove ingrown hairs must be cleaned and then sterilized after each use. Equipment/instruments used to hold sterile items (e.g. tweezers) shall be used to expose the ingrown hairs. Equipment/instruments NOT used to remove ingrown hairs, but used only to pull the hair, must be cleaned and then disinfected with an intermediate or high-level disinfectant between use.

For more information, call

**Brockville 613-345-5685
Smiths Falls 613-283-2740**

**HealthACTION Line
at 1-800-660-5853**

**visit our website at
www.healthunit.org/infectious**