

Re: Reprocessing of Reusable Grips Where Needle Cartridges Systems Are Used

Dear Studio Owners/Operators:

Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit (LGLDHU) would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to prioritizing the health and safety of your patrons and employees.

Our Health Unit recognizes that there are a variety of tattoo, microneedling and micropigmentation pens where manufacturer's instructions prohibit the use of an autoclave for reprocessing of reusable grips as it may cause damage to the tool.

It is highly recommended, regardless of the type of needle cartridge system used, that the grip is **single-use disposable** or that the **re-usable grip is reprocessed by cleaning with soap and water and then placing into an ultrasonic cleaner before sterilizing in an autoclave after each use.**

The Leeds Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit may allow re-usable grips to be reprocessed chemically provided:

1. Only Single-use needle cartridge systems **with** written manufacturer's* proof of backflow prevention are used.
2. Operator must provide written proof of backflow prevention from manufacturer to Public Health Inspector upon request. Failure to provide documentation will result in Health Unit requiring the grip sleeve to be reprocessed using a sterilizer or that single-use, disposable grips be used.
3. The entire tattoo, microneedling or micropigmentation pen (grip and machine) must be must be wrapped in a single-use plastic cover.
4. The plastic cover must be securely attached to the unit with tape.
5. The plastic cover and tape must be discarded between clients.
6. The re-usable grip and machine must be reprocessed by cleaning with soap and water, and then disinfected with a chemical solution that has kill claim against *mycobacteria*.

*"Manufacturer's proof" must be in the form of written documentation with the product or directly from the manufacturer's own website for the particular product in question. It does not include 3rd party claims on retailer distribution websites.

Using single-use disposable grips, or, re-usable grips that have been properly reprocessed and sterilized, remains to be the safest options where needle cartridge system with a safety membrane is used.

Your Partner in Public Health,

Infectious Diseases Program (IDP)

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SC/lm