

Infection Prevention and Control Policy

Incorporating: Uniform, PPE, Sharps, Needle Stick Injury and Single use Medical Consumables

Version: 1

Name of originator / author:

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| 1  |   | New Policy  | September 2023  | Karen Hewinson |
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# Procedural Document Statement

**Background Statement**  The purpose of this policy is to implement an approach to infection prevention and control in line with current regulations and Department of Health requirements

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| **Key words**   | Infection Prevention and Control, PPE, Sharps, Needle Stick Injury, Uniform, Waste, |
| **Responsibilities**  | Compliance is the responsibility of all staff including sub-contracted staff |
| **Training**  | Responsibility of the manager in respect of employees or responsibility of the staff member if self employed/subcontracted |
| **Resource**   | This policy has been developed in line with evidence to provide a framework to ensure the appropriate production, management and review of policies.  |
| **Equality Statement**  | As part of our on-going commitment to promoting equality,  |

valuing diversity and protecting human rights, Skin Solutions Aesthetic Clinic Ltd is committed to eliminating discrimination against any individual (individual means employees, patients, services users and carers) on the grounds of gender, gender reassignment, disability, age, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, language, religion or beliefs, marriage or civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, appearance, nationality or culture.

# Introduction

Healthcare associated infections (HCAI’s) are infections that are neither present nor incubating when a patient attends the clinic for any treatment. They are well recognised to cause morbidity and mortality. Whilst not all infections are preventable due to an individual’s susceptibility, Infection Prevention aims to minimise the risk of acquiring an infection whilst in the clinical setting.

The fundamental principle of ‘Infection Prevention” is ensuring a safe environment through the development and implementation of robust guidelines and policies.

Skin Solutions Aesthetic Clinic Ltd (SSACLtd) has an open approach to infection prevention with our policy being available to the public via our website.

SSACLtd is committed to the development of safe working practices and quality care and has a legal obligation to ensure that arrangements are in place to protect all visitors to the clinic from the risk of acquiring an HCAI during the provision of any treatment.

# Purpose

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The purpose of this policy is to protect both patients and staff from the avoidable risks of the spread of infection and ensure that the organisation is compliant with key documents such as the Health & Social Care Act 2015.

# Scope of guidance

The principles contained within the policy reflect best practices and applies to any members of staff who are directly employed or subcontracted by SSACLtd.

SSACLtd has a responsibility to monitor standards and provide excellent infection prevention standards. Audits are completed and available for viewing.

# Responsibilities

## Director

Overall responsibility for Infection Prevention lies with the Director of SSACLtd who is accountable for ensuring that there are effective arrangements in place for controlling and preventing infections, and providing quality care and improved outcomes for patients. This person has the responsibility to be a role model, monitor standards and facilitate excellent infection prevention practice to

* Ensure that appropriate risk assessments and audits are undertaken

* Ensure that education and training is provided for all grades of staff

* Produce and revise infection prevention policies and guidelines

* Oversee any outbreak management

## Employees (including subcontracted staff)

All employees have a responsibility to:

* Abide by this policy and any decisions arising from the implementation of it.

* Adhere to current guidelines for evidence based practice in the prevention and control of infection

* Seek appropriate guidance/advice if unsure of action to take

* Report any concerns/difficulties in relation to implementing this policy and associated guidelines to the Director/Owner

* Employees have a responsibility to attend training/update training
* Staff must attend a yearly mandatory training session which includes infection prevention
* Staff have a duty to keep records to confirm all training is up to date and are able to produce these on request

**4 Uniform Policy**

Uniform should be appropriate for the environment and tasks required and should be clean every day. Spare uniform should be available should contamination occur whilst at work. Clothing should be able to withstand washing at 60 degrees to reduce transmission of most micro-organisms.

Fingernails should be short and neat to avoid trauma and transmission risk.

Staff working in the clinic should have tied back off the face and secured to reduce infection risk and any obscuring of vision whilst carrying out treatments.

Appropriate PPE must be worn for procedures as required by training for each procedure. This is provided within the clinic environment and includes gloves and eye protection for use of LED/Lazers.

**5 Prevention of inoculation exposure injuries**

# Risk of transmission

Primarily transmission of blood borne viruses most commonly occur following percutaneous exposure to a patient’s blood by ‘sharps’ or “Needlestick injuries” (NSI). Mucocutaneous exposure by the splashing of blood and bodily fluids are also a risk. The most reported contributory factors for exposure are non-compliance with standard precautions and when sharps bins are not used at point of care.

All clinic patients complete health screening prior to appointments. As such any increased risks are identified and can be assessed prior to attendance.

Measures to reduce inoculation exposure injuries occurring within the clinic environment include:

* Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) i.e. gloves, aprons and eye / face protection.
* Cover existing wounds, skin lesions and all breaks in exposed skin with waterproof dressings.
* Compliance with uniform policy as above
* Washing hands after dealing with body fluids
* When performing procedures which involve sharps, take a sharps bin to the site of use
* Dispose of sharps immediately after use, in a designated sharps bin
* Do not re-sheath used needles. Use safer sharps where possible
* Wherever possible, discard syringes and needles into a sharps bin as a single unit
* Always dispose of the sharps bin when it is ¾ full
* Use the temporary closure when the sharps bin is not in use
* Store sharps bins off the floor
* Never place sharps down on chairs, examination beds, work surfaces or leave them lying amongst swabs, paper towels or linen
* Never dispose of sharps into clinical waste bags or household waste bins
* Clear up spillages promptly and correctly
* Pick up dropped sharps carefully and dispose of safely
* Never attempt to retrieve anything from a sharps bin
* Follow local procedure for storage and collection of sharps bins.

# Support for patients

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All policies and guidelines will be available on the SSACLtd website. Patients will receive verbal and or written information appropriate to their episode of care.

Any inoculation incidents will require patients to attend A and E. Support and ongoing contact will be undertaken with them post exposure as required.

Data relating to the numbers of alert organisms can be accessed on the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Website

Patients have access to the complaints policy and procedures should this be required

**Additional Documents**

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