

Microblading/Permanent Cosmetics Guidance Document

Microblading is the practice of using a hand-held instrument, tipped with a grouping or configuration of needles, utilized for penetrating into the lower epidermal layers and/or dermis, so that pigments are introduced and implanted into the lower epidermal layers and/or dermis. It is also known by a variety of names such as eyebrow embroidery, micro-stroking, feather touch and hair like strokes as a form of permanent makeup that provides a means to partially or fully camouflage missing eyebrow hair with the appearance of simulated hair using fine deposits of pigments, colors, and/or dyes. While some refer to microblading as “semi-permanent cosmetics” because the colorants eventually fade, there is no conclusive, consistent, and reliable proof that the pigments, colors, and/or dyes will be completely eliminated from the dermal and epidermal layers of skin.

In N.J.A.C. 8:27-1.3, "Permanent Cosmetics," "Micropigmentation," or "Dermal Pigmentation" are defined as the implanting of inert pigments, colors, and/or dyes intradermally which results in permanent alteration of tissue to gain a cosmetic effect." By definition, Microblading is Micropigmentation. Therefore, operators, practitioners, and apprentices of microblading are subject to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:27, and in particular subchapter 8 Permanent Cosmetics.

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Q: What certifications are required to be licensed to perform microblading?

A: Since microblading is the same as micropigmentation, the regulations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:27-8 require all practitioners and apprentices to obtain the same education and experience as other permanent cosmetic practitioners and apprentices. In order to become an independent permanent cosmetics practitioner, you must complete the American Academy of Micropigmentation (AAM), Society of Professional Cosmetic Practitioners (SPCP), or SofTap, Inc.'s basic permanent cosmetics course, which shall consist of at least 100-hours of instruction, and successfully pass either the AAM, SPCP, or SofTap Inc. practitioner examination. This occurs after the apprenticeship. The apprenticeship can be incorporated into the training or be done separately. These classes must also be taught by an AAM, SPCP, or SofTap Inc. trainer or instructor. Visit their webpages to find certified trainers at <https://micropigmentation.org/view-by-member-type.php>, <https://www.spcp.org/spcp-member-trainers/>, and <https://www.softaps.com/index.php?route=information/trainer>.

Q: What licenses/permits are required for this type of business?

A: An individual must obtain a License to Operate a Body Art Establishment through the local health department.

Q: I am microblade-certified in another state. Is there anything else that I need in NJ?

A: Licenses are not transferable from other states. However, if that state's certification equals or exceeds the requirements of N.J.A.C. 8:27-8, then that certification will be acceptable for licensing by the local health department. Otherwise, the applicant will be required to obtain the required training from one of the three recognized permanent cosmetic organizations (The Society of Permanent Cosmetic Professionals, the American Academy of Micropigmentation, or SofTap, Inc.) as well as documentation of having conducted at least five procedures of the various types of permanent cosmetics.

Q: Can microblading be conducted in a doctor's office?

A: This procedure can be performed in a physician's office, but only the physician is exempt from the Body Art Regulations. Anyone else performing permanent cosmetics procedures would have to obtain the required training/experience and the doctor's office would have to apply for a License to Operate a Body Art Establishment through the local health department.

Q: How is microblading different than permanent cosmetics?

A: It is not. They are both forms of micropigmentation. Only the implements used to implant the pigment differ between needle-set affixed to a handle where the motion of the practitioner's hand breaks the top layers of epidermis or a machine which utilizes a rotary motor raising the needles up and down at a high rate is what breaks the top layers of the epidermis to implant pigment.

Q: Are the pigments used in microblading safe and regulated?

A: It depends on the source. Each pigment has a lot number and expiration or use by date. It is important that pigment is not poured back into the bottle and that the lot number and use by date are recorded into the client's record.

Q: Does microblading use real blades?

A: No, the hand-held instrument does not have blades. It has a group or configuration of needles that are used to implant the pigment into skin.

Q: Is an autoclave required?

A: You will have to verify through direct observation and discussion with operator that all microblade tools are received and stored in a commercially sealed individual pack. If so, then a statement of the type of sterilization treatment and an indicator of positive effect or effective sterilization process must be present. If the operator uses reusable metal handles to affix the needle set, then the needle set must be received and stored in a commercially sealed individual pack which includes a statement of the type of sterilization treatment and an indicator of positive effect or effective sterilization process. In this case, the metal handle will need to be autoclaved. Coloring pencils must be single use only.

Q: I found a hair salon in my jurisdiction doing eye brow microblading...what should I do?

A: Contact the local health department to investigate. The New Jersey State Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling prohibits the practice of body art in establishments that it licenses.

Q: Should a permanent cosmetic establishment have a written agreement with a licensed physician for consultative services?

A: The Body Art Rule N.J.A.C. 8:27 was adopted with amendments on July 18, 2022 and became effective on that date. The requirement for having a written agreement with a licensed physician for consultative services was eliminated. However, N.J.A.C. 8:27-4.4 (a) requires that a permanent cosmetics practitioner who is credentialed to perform areola restoration or camouflage shall do so in accordance with specific written instructions issued by the client's health care provider, which the practitioner shall maintain with the client's application.

Q: Is a body art establishment permitted in every town or county?

A: There are certain towns that will not allow a body art establishment to operate. Therefore, you must check with your local zoning and health departments.

Q: Do I have to have a separate room to perform pre-cleaning and sterilization?

A: The ideal situation would be to have a separate area for each process. If, that cannot be done you would have to perform each process one at a time and not at the same time due to cross contamination issue.