

Queensland Health's position on cosmetic injectables and skin penetration procedures

Important information for the personal appearance industry – October 2023

Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003

The purpose of the [Public Health \(Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services\) Act 2003](#) (the Act) is to **minimise the risk of infection** that may result from the provision of hairdressing, beauty therapy and skin penetration services (collectively referred to as 'personal appearance services').

The Act further defines personal appearance services according to the risk of infection; higher and non-higher risk personal appearance services. Providers of higher risk personal appearance services must possess the correct infection control qualification and businesses in which the higher risk personal appearance services are provided must be licenced by Local Government authorities.

The Executive Director, Communicable Diseases Branch, would like to confirm the position that cosmetic injectables (including Botox and fillers) administered for non-therapeutic purposes (i.e. not medical treatment) and non-therapeutic skin penetration procedures such as skin needling (also known as collagen induction therapy or direct needle therapy) involving the implantation of a substance during the procedure and platelet-rich plasma (PRP) beauty therapy (also known as 'vampire facials') meet the definition of higher risk personal appearance services.

The Communicable Diseases Branch is considering whether the [Public Health \(Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services\) Regulation 2003](#) (the Regulation) needs to be amended to support this position by specifically prescribing cosmetic injectables (including Botox and fillers) administered for non-therapeutic purposes and non-therapeutic skin penetration procedures such as skin needling and PRP beauty therapy. These potential amendments will provide further clarity by specifically recognising these services as higher risk personal appearance services under section 14(e) of the Act (i.e. 'another skin penetration procedure prescribed under a regulation').

Please note that this position does not impact cosmetic injectables and skin penetration procedures administered for therapeutic purposes (i.e. treating an illness), which are covered under Chapter 4 of the [Public Health Act 2005 \(Qld\)](#).

The Act also does not apply to personal appearance services provided in a place where services for maintaining, improving, restoring or managing people's health and wellbeing are provided, such as medical practices and hospitals.

What does this mean for you?

All personal appearance service providers are required to take reasonable precautions and care to minimise their clients' risk of infections.

When providing higher risk personal appearance services, service providers **must** meet the following obligations:

- Business owners must meet the licensing requirements set out in the Act.
- The person providing the service (e.g. beauty therapist) must hold the infection control qualification specified in the [Public Health \(Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services\) Regulation 2003](#). This includes registered health professionals providing these services in a location that is not a health-care facility.

The current qualification required to provide these services is HLTINF005—Maintain infection prevention for skin penetration treatments. This course is available from multiple registered training organisations. For more information, please visit training.gov.au.

Business owners and people who provide non-therapeutic cosmetic injections (including Botox and fillers) and skin penetration procedures (such as skin needling and PRP beauty therapy) are encouraged to review the above obligations for higher risk personal appearance services and are required to take the appropriate steps to meet these requirements.

Business owners and service providers are reminded that it is illegal to administer, apply, inject or sell scheduled medicines and drugs such as cosmetic injections and topical anaesthetics (numbing creams) unless authorised under the [Medicines and Poisons Act 2019](#). For further information please contact the Medicines Approvals and Regulation Unit via: MARU@health.qld.gov.au

To provide additional support, the Communicable Diseases Branch has published an updated Personal Appearance Service Categorisation Table.

If you have any questions in relation to the above information, please contact your [local government](#).