

Suspected Infections & Adverse Effects Related to Personal Service Procedures

Date: Wednesday, July 30, 2014

To: Central Zone Physicians and Emergency Departments

From: Dr. Ifeoma Achebe, on behalf of the Medical Officers of Health – Central Zone

Dear Colleagues:

Subject: Suspected Infections and Adverse Effects Related to Personal Service Procedures

What are personal service procedures?

Personal service procedures are cosmetic services offered to the public in a variety of environments such as commercial spaces, kiosks, mobile units, special events and home-based businesses. These services include, but are not limited to:

- Body & Ear Piercing
- Pedicure
- Tattooing and Permanent Make-up
- Waxing
- Laser Hair Removal
- Manicure
- Henna Tattoo
- Spas
- Make-up Application
- Salons

What are the risks?

Most personal services carry a risk of complication including infection, allergy, hyper / hypo pigmentation, scarring, burning and improper healing. Invasive services also pose a risk of BBP transmission. Such risks are lessened when the service is performed by a competent practitioner in a sanitary and routinely inspected environment. AHS Environmental Public Health (EPH) suspects that adverse events are under-reported by the public and by health care professionals.

Who inspects these services?

Environmental Public Health has a mandate to inspect any public or private place where personal services are performed to ensure compliance with the *Personal Services Regulation* and / or the *Nuisance and General Sanitation Regulation*. The focus of these investigations is on infection prevention control and public safety.

Environmental Public Health, Central Zone is requesting that any adverse outcomes that are suspected or reported to have originated from any of the above noted services be referred for inspection and follow up. EPH officers will investigate any concern regarding potential adverse events or complications that were associated with patients visiting a personal service facility. A physician may notify EPH at any time during the course of treatment of a patient.

To report a suspected adverse event from a personal service establishment or if you have further questions regarding personal services establishments, please do not hesitate to contact Environmental Public Health at: 1.866.654.7890 or email at: cal.centralzone.environmentalhealth@albertahealthservices.ca

Sincerely,

Dr. Ifeoma Achebe, MBBS, DTM, M.Sc, D(ABPM)
Medical Officer of Health
Alberta Health Services, Central Zone