
Unit Specification

UBT447 – Provide Micropigmentation for Camouflage and Restoration

Unit reference number: A/650/4599

Level: 5

Guided Learning (GL) hours: 21

Overview

The aim of this unit is to develop the learners' knowledge, understanding and practical skills when using advanced micropigmentation techniques, a form of cosmetic tattooing to improve the appearance or restore/camouflage areas of skin, and may be used to simulate/replace/define natural features such as the areola. It covers the skills involved in providing a thorough consultation to establish client suitability for treatment, also the knowledge on how to formulate a specific treatment plan tailored to suit individual client needs and requirements. Learners will also develop the knowledge required to provide pre and post-treatment advice and post care including maintenance treatments needed to ensure the client receives the full scope of the treatment and results are maintained over time.

Learning outcomes

On completion of this unit, learners will:

LO1 Interpret the environmental and safety considerations when providing advanced micropigmentation techniques

LO2 Comprehend protocols and guidelines when providing advanced micropigmentation techniques

LO3 Demonstrate how to consult, plan, design and prepare for advanced micropigmentation treatments

LO4 Demonstrate how to provide advanced micropigmentation treatments

Unit content

LO1 Interpret the environmental and safety considerations when providing advanced micropigmentation techniques

Promoting environmental and sustainable working practices

Taught content

- Environmental working practices, to be effective and energy efficient heating and ventilation to meet the workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 for client and employees
- Sustainable working practices – products with ingredients from sustainable sources and using sustainable packaging, efficient storage and waste disposal, record product usage

Licensing regulations for the aesthetic practitioner and premises

Taught content

- Local government licensing
- Professional association licensing
- Responsibilities of employers and employees
- Responsibilities of the self-employed
- Responsibilities of suppliers, manufacturers and installers

Insurance guidelines

Taught content

- Current professional insurance policy requirements for working at this level
- Insurance policy requirements to be met to ensure insurance is valid
- Requirements for skin patch testing prior to treatment
- Acquiring informed client consent and signature before every treatment
- Acquiring client consent to photographs before and after every treatment
- Providing verbal and written post-care information
- Ensuring the practitioner is working within scope of practice with regard to selection of needles/cartridges, sizes, configurations, pigments/lakes/dilutants/boosters and application techniques used

Safety of product and equipment sourcing

Taught content

- Ensure micropigmentation equipment, pigments/lakes and products used are approved by EU Cosmetics Regulations for cosmetic use by practitioners and conforms to guidelines of the Cosmetic Practice Standards Authority (CPSA) or the relevant legislation for the country therein
- The safety and legal reasons for using products that are licensed and meet EU standards and the outcome of using products which are not properly tested or contain banned substances
- Understand how to gain verification of legality
- Know the ethical methods of sourcing, purchasing and storing regulated and non-regulated treatment products including expiration dates and batch numbers
- Know the options for pain management and the legal requirements and restrictions for sourcing, storing and using topical anaesthetic/numbing agents licenced in the UK/EU
- The use of Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) in relation to micropigmentation for camouflage and restoration treatments, check with supplier/manufacturer for guidelines

Suppliers' and manufacturers' instructions for safe use

Taught content

- Understand the features and benefits and know reasons for supplier and manufacturer product and equipment protocols for advanced micropigmentation treatments including skin sensitivity and patch/scratch test recommendations. Products appropriate for use during advanced micropigmentation treatment preparation, performance and post care and aftercare application according to suppliers'/manufacturers' instructions, for example, cleansing, topical anaesthetic/numbing agents, pigments/lakes/dilutants/boosters, healing balm/cream, SPF. Follow guidelines to check packaging is intact, expiry dates, batch numbers and select new unused disposable, single use needles/cartridges, considering needle/cartridge size and configuration (as appropriate)
- Select appropriate colour pigments/lakes as per client specific requirements and mix in line with suppliers'/manufacturers' instructions and guidelines
- Understand colour theory for advanced micropigmentation treatments and know how to select, mix and test appropriate colour pigments/lakes to create the desired effects and treatment objectives, taking into account skin colour, classification and characteristics; also the types, formulations, uses and limitations of pigments/lakes when mixed and diluted, including pigments with high levels of Titanium Dioxide
- Prepare, open, load and dispose of equipment following supplier and manufacturer protocols and adhering to recommendations. Follow supplier/manufacturer protocols for hygiene, sterilisation and treatment application – working in a systematic manner, stabilising the treatment area and manipulating the skin to ensure effective implantation and distribution of pigment/lake as required, using the correct settings, speed, angle, pressure, depth and techniques, adapting treatment application to all areas worked to achieve the desired effects and outcome in line with agreed treatment plan.
- Feedback regarding treatment sensation, client comfort, tolerance and wellbeing to be checked with client throughout treatment. Observation and correction of desirable and undesirable implantation of pigment/lake and skin reaction, topical anaesthetic/numbing agent and skin recovery products used in the salon. Frequency of treatment and associated timeframes, process of healing and the expected outcome with associated timeframes, maintenance treatments required and associated time frames, areas and conditions suitable for treatment.

Working in line with organisational procedures

Taught content

- Adhere to all supplier/manufacturer recommendations and protocols
- Adhere to responsible marketing guidelines
- The individual responsibilities of working within a multidiscipline team
- Lines of communication within a multidiscipline team
- Conflict resolution
- The potential disadvantages of working in isolation
- Responsibility of working within remit of qualification boundaries
- The role of clinical governance within the aesthetic industry
- The importance of Continuing Professional Development (CPD), training, education and career opportunities

Hygiene considerations

Taught content

- Set up and work within a clinically clean field. Use of suitable sterilisation and sanitisation for equipment and surfaces. Use of single-use items as appropriate such as disposable gloves (latex free), disposable hair protectors, apron/gown, applicators, cotton wool, couch roll, and practitioner's protective face mask, template drawing equipment as required – pencils, sharpener, measuring devices/callipers, mirror
- General hygiene, such as washing hands before, during and after treatment, hand gel, use of disposables where possible and appropriate
- Disposable single use covers/towels/barrier sheets/film for hand piece, such as needles/cartridges, pigment cups renewed for each client, wires on automated devices covered with protective covers/sleeves/film renewed for each client
- Disinfectant or sterilisation – use of heat or chemical methods, bactericides, fungicides, UV cabinet for storage, use of sterile dressing packs, medical grade sanitising wipes
- Equipment – only used for intended purpose, safe usage/safe handling/storage/visual checks, correct disposal of contaminated equipment and waste products
- Waste disposal – general and hazardous contaminated treatment waste including current legislation and local authority requirements
- Knowledge of infection control, bacteria, virus, fungi, parasites, prevention of cross-contamination, disease transmission procedures, levels of infection control, personal immunisation (Hepatitis B), single use barrier consumables for protection against blood-borne viruses (BBV) and Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) Herpes Simplex

Contra-indications that would prevent or restrict treatment

Taught content

- Prevent – allergy to surgical grade stainless steel, anti-coagulant medications, blood-borne diseases, contagious skin diseases, extremely sensitive skin, haemophilia, history of drugs with photosensitising potential, inflammations and swellings, isotretinoin, Roaccutane within 6 months, open wounds, recent scar tissue, rosacea, severe active acne, skin cancer and undiagnosed lumps, any conditions not covered by insurance policy
- Restrict – abrasions, active inflammatory dermatoses (such as psoriasis), anxiety, bruises, current medications, cuts, diabetes, epilation, epilepsy, herpes simplex, history of scarring, Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) or laser in the treatment area, large moles, long term anti-inflammatory use, piercings, poor mental and emotional state, prior cosmetic surgery, recent botulinum toxin injections or dermal fillers, recent dermabrasion or cosmetic skin peels, sensitive or excessively reactive skin types, supplements and herbal remedies, recent UV exposure and varicose veins, MRI scans, active suntan, artificial tan, blood donation

Contra-indications requiring medical referral and referral processes

Taught content

- Contra-indications requiring medical referral and why – radiation treatment, certain medications, chemotherapy, immune conditions
- Skin cancer is an ever-prevalent issue. Areas of skin or moles that have uneven asymmetry, irregular, ragged or blurred borders, uneven patchy colour or an altered diameter to that previously noted, need to be identified and the client encouraged to go to their General Practitioner for diagnosis
- Protocols to follow in respect of the prevent and restrict guidelines
- Actions to take in relation to specific contra-indications when referring clients
- Knowledge of organisation protocols for not naming specific suspected contra-indications when encouraging client to seek medical advice
- Encourage clients to seek medical advice without alarm or concern
- Reasons for not diagnosing suspected contra-indications due to professional status, acknowledging the need for medical training to be able to diagnose

When to consult with other aesthetic/medical professionals

Taught content

- Recognise when additional information is needed from other clinicians/medical professionals involved with the client and how this can be obtained in compliance with confidentiality and consent guidance and in line with current data protection legislation
- Demonstrate an understanding of when to and how to request additional advice from other clinicians/medical professionals treating the client when applicable in line with current data protection legislation
- Recognise when and what other aesthetic treatments/skin rejuvenation treatments can be used in conjunction with advanced micropigmentation treatments to maximise results, for example, IPL, laser, microdermabrasion, skin needling, PRP

Treatment of minors

Taught content

- The age at which an individual is classed as a minor and how this may differ internationally
- Why treatment should only be provided for clients over the age of 18 unless referred by a medical practitioner and with parental consent

Hazards and risks

Taught content

- Identification of hazards and risks through risk assessment
- Putting procedures in place to ensure they are minimised:
 - Proper training for all staff
 - Protocols to follow during consultation
 - Written and verbal post-care for client
 - Adherence to supplier/manufacture guidelines
- Avoidance of sharps injuries, implications of blood-borne diseases, redness, swelling, weeping skin, milia, hyperpigmentation, cold sores, acne outbreak, viral infection, bacterial infection and scarring
- Avoidance of contra-actions and adverse reactions – blistering, stinging, excessive discomfort, pain, oedema, reactions leading to bruising, hives, anaphylaxis, nausea, dizziness, fainting, hypertrophic or keloid scarring, scabbing, lack of retention, colour fade, migration of pigment/lake
- Potential associated risks with the options for pain management using topical anaesthetic/numbing agents
- Risks associated with compromised tactile response in the treatment area post-surgery
- Risks associated with performing advanced micropigmentation over vitiligo and the precautions to performing micropigmentation over atrophy, hypertrophic and keloid scarring
- Understand how colour pigments/lakes can change throughout the healing process and post healing and the colour theory to change undesirable colour results after healing
- Procedures for removal – saline, chemical, IPL, Laser and their limitations and effects on micropigmentation

LO2 Comprehend protocols and guidelines when providing advanced micropigmentation techniques

Structure and function of the breast

Taught content

- Structure of the breast – Pectoralis major, pectoralis minor, fascia, intercostal vein, intercostal artery, intercostal nerve, ribs, lobes, mammary ducts, Montgomery glands, areola, nipple, connective tissues, fatty tissue, inframammary ridge
- The blood circulation and lymphatic system relating to the breast
- Primary biological function to produce milk to feed infants, also a symbol of femininity and play a role in sexual attraction and pleasure

Disorders of the breast, breast and reconstructive surgery and hormone therapy

Taught content

- Breast swelling, breast tenderness, breast pain, gynecomastia, cysts, fibroadenomas, fat necrosis, generalised breast lumpiness,
- Breast ptosis and pseudo ptosis - the Regnault classification grades 1-3 and Puckett classification 1-3b
- Mastitis
- Breast cancers – female and male
- Mastectomy – full/partial, lateral, bilateral, lumpectomy
- Reconstructive breast surgeries
- Mastopexy – breast lift
- Breast augmentation and reduction
- Mammoplasty
- Gender reassignment
- Breast implant reconstruction
- Reconstruction of the areola-nipple complex – skin grafting, skin flaps, nipple sharing
- The relevance of the endocrine system to advanced micropigmentation treatments
- Hormone therapy given as part of cancer treatment – and hormonal moderators (Tamoxifen, Raloxifene, aromatase inhibitors, luteinising hormone releasing hormone agonists/LH blockers (Zoladex), Fluvestrant)

Factors to consider when treatment planning

Taught content

- Client needs, expectations, anticipated costs, and treatment objectives to agree realistic outcomes against client expectations, discuss pain and pain management and potential risks relevant to the advanced micropigmentation procedure to be performed, expected number of treatments needed to achieve expected outcome with associated timeframes
- Results from skin analysis, classifications and characteristics taking into consideration the natural progressive ageing of the client, and maintenance treatments required with appropriate intervals to maintain results; the psychological impact of hair loss on the quality of life
- Previous history of area to be treated to ensure enough time has passed for original or internal trauma to have healed, four months to one year following breast surgery, at least one year for a surgical scar/stretchmarks
- Satisfaction and results. Dissatisfaction could indicate body dysmorphia or client with unrealistic expectations and how to manage this
- Legal aspects of responsibility of the practitioner
- Diet and lifestyle factors that could positively or negatively impact the effects of treatment
- Medical history including contra-indications that prevent or restrict treatment to ensure client is safe for treatment or if medical referral is required
- Identify the aims of treatment – defining natural features, creating natural features, correcting natural features, improving and balancing features, introducing skin colour, skin camouflage, simulated areola, scar relaxation, skin rejuvenation, freckles
- For areola enhancement/simulation record client's previous medical procedures – type of mammoplasty – augmentation/reduction/reconstruction, unilateral/bilateral mastectomy, breast implants, tissue graft, nipple reconstructions (type and projection) areola shape, symmetry of breasts, symmetry of nipple areola, radiation, chemotherapy, scar description, sensation, date of last surgery, delayed healing, post-surgical infections, tissue necrosis
- Frequency, duration and potential cost of treatments and potential number of treatments with appropriate timeframes recommended to achieve treatment outcomes including maintenance treatments to achieve and maintain the result
- Pre and post treatment advice including any benefit for specific skin preparation treatments and optimal intervals prior to commencing advanced micropigmentation treatments, possible contra-actions, post treatment expectations and associated timeframes, healing process including the effect of the healing process on pigments/lakes, recommended skin care/post care and lifestyle advice or restrictions to ensure client is suitable for all treatments planned
- Draw and agree a template (where applicable) and all factors that need to be considered when creating a design template in terms of a realistic and achievable outcome
- Recording of photographic evidence of the agreed template prior to treatment, discuss and agree with client
- Treatment plan and schedule should be clearly agreed between the client and practitioner and recorded on the consultation documentation with signed consent

Assessing skin characteristics

Taught content

- Assessed through questioning at consultation and observation of skin, importance of using skin diagnostic equipment such as Woods Lamp, light magnifier/glasses, skin scanner/diagnosis technology, colour swatches/wheel for skin tone and undertone clarification
- How to assess and recognise skin health characteristics – Fitzpatrick scale 1-6, Glogau photo-damage, hyper/hypo pigmentation, skin colour, skin tones and undertones, level of sensitivity/damage thickness of skin, epidermal thickness, quality of dermal tissues, healing capacity, surface hydration levels, congestion/excessive oil, skin texture/pore size and static and dynamic wrinkles
 - Treatment area and size including adjacent/surrounding skin tissue, skin integrity, skin type, skin condition, specific skin conditions present, individual/localised lesions vascular lesions, primary and secondary lesions, irregularities
 - Scars and scar tissue – characteristics, age and reasons for scarring, type of scar, mature scar, immature scar. Type of scar, for example superficial macular scars – burns, surgery, accidents, insect bites, acne, chicken pox
- Assess deep dermal scarring – linear scar, linear hypertrophic scar, widespread hypertrophic scar, minor keloid, major keloid, rolling scar, boxcar scar, ice pick scar, depth, suitability for treatment, realistic proposed camouflage or improvement of scar tissue
- How to match the treatments to suit skin health characteristics, effects to be created, treatment objectives and desired outcome
- How to adapt follow-on treatments taking into consideration results from previous treatments – healing, pigment/lake retention, colour fade, colour change, client behaviour and adherence to aftercare
- Reasons for choosing different micropigmentation needles/cartridges and configurations, selecting, mixing and/or diluting various pigments/lakes, and using/adapting different implantation techniques to suit the variations in sensitivity, thickness of epidermis and dermis, area being treated, effects to be created and agreed treatment objectives

Pre and post treatment advice to provide to the client

Taught content

- Provide consultation and allergy/products sensitivity tests, following manufacturer's instructions at least 48 hours prior to actual treatment to discuss outcomes and pre-treatment preparation. Active skin care of a high/professional strength concentration needs to be avoided for 14 days to one month such as retinoids and AHA's pre and post advanced micropigmentation treatments. Low strength should be avoided post treatment. Post treatment skincare products advised must be used for 7-10 days post treatment including use of sterile dressings where appropriate
- Diet and lifestyle factors that could positively or negatively impact the effects of treatment including current skincare regime and any revisions required
- Use of general skin preparation products at home to improve hydration, skin cell health and general texture/condition of the skin. To improve healing capacity and effectiveness of advanced micropigmentation treatments which may include a prior course of skin rejuvenation/cosmetic skin needling/microdermabrasion treatments for scar/stretch marks up to one month or more prior
- Pre-treatment, clients should also be advised to avoid UV exposure one month to six weeks before and heat immediately prior to treatment, wear SPF minimum 30 and UVA broad spectrum protection daily
- Avoid alcohol and caffeine 48 hours before and after treatment
- Physical sensation
 - The client may feel sensitivity – mild to moderate discomfort, may feel like skin is being pricked or scratched, sense of vibration, some may feel pressure or pain
- Post-treatment physical sensation and reaction
 - All clients should be advised that physical sensations and effects post-treatment vary for each client and depend on size of area treated, the techniques performed and individual skin characteristics, generally treated area may feel tight or sore and implanted colour usually appears darker initially and then lighter as it heals, clients can experience 30-70% loss of colour
- Likely and possible contra-actions – what they are, why they appear and how long they may last; for example erythema, swelling, blistering, stinging, excessive discomfort, pain, oedema, weeping, crusting, scabbing, flaking, reactions leading to bruising, hives, anaphylaxis, nausea, dizziness, fainting, hypertrophic or keloid scarring, lack of retention, colour fade, migration of pigment/lake and how to manage complications of adverse reactions at home, if concerned contact therapist in the first instance and when to refer to a medical practitioner
- Which activities to avoid that might cause contra-actions, extremes of temperature and heat, contact with water, activities which cause sweating, avoid exposure to UV
- Post-treatment care advice including washing hands before touching the area, keeping area clean and protected with a clean, protective dressing when necessary, applying healing balm/cream regularly, using a broad-spectrum SPF, and not scratching or picking the area

Timing of treatments

Taught content

- Identify and understand commercial timings for treatments. Recognise variations in timings depending on type and size of area to be treated, treatment to be performed and depending on client sensitivity/pain tolerance or threshold including health/type and condition of area to be treated plus other contributory factors
- Identify and understand post treatment expectations and associated timeframes including number of treatments required to achieve planned and desired final outcome and appropriate intervals between treatments
- Identify and understand the needs for ongoing maintenance treatments to ensure the results are maintained and associated expected timeframes

Pain threshold, sensitivity variations and testing

Taught content

- Understanding inflammatory response of the skin and the effects and associated risks of using over the counter (OTC) pain relief and topical anaesthetic/numbing agents and the possible effect they may have on treatment and the healing process
- Recognising skin health/types and areas that are more sensitive, fragile and reactive to topical applications. Those that have more prominent and dilated dermal blood vessels which may contribute to an exaggerated inflammatory response or hyperpigmentation (Fitzpatrick 4+) plus a more intense physical sensation when the treatment is applied
- Understand that treatments may be more uncomfortable during menstruation or ovulation
- Understand why the majority of fine tactile sensation is lost after surgery or over scarring and how this affects the ability to perform advanced micropigmentation treatments

Sensitivity Testing:

- Skin test/scratch test performed during initial consultation at following manufacturer's instructions at least 48 hours before treatment after client has agreed and signed informed consent before the cooling off period. Client must sign patch/scratch test form if separate from main consultation form
- Testing for potential allergic reaction or adverse response (inflammatory response) to advanced micropigmentation products. Clients with history of allergies or sensitivities have an increased risk of allergic reaction. Skin test site is located discreetly near the treatment area – behind the ear or inner side of forearm. Skin is prepared as usual for advanced micropigmentation techniques. Desired advanced micropigmentation product(s) (pigment/lake/dilutant/topical anaesthetic/numbing agent) to be applied as appropriate with results evaluated and checked following supplier instructions. Evaluation of the skin/scratch tests is made following timing recommended by supplier/manufacturer instructions. Recording of results to include date, location of test, products used and batch numbers, description of results including any visible or sensory response, if the client is unable to identify the correct sensations a full description of response and product used.
- Any change of advanced micropigmentation products or strength to be recorded in treatment details
- Follow supplier/manufacturer instructions for recommended time between skin or patch/scratch test and advanced micropigmentation application for each skin type and condition as they may vary
- Tactile and thermal tests to record if the client is able to correctly identify different sensations in the treatment area, a full description of responses should be recorded
- Advanced micropigmentation to be performed when the client is able to identify correctly different thermal and tactile sensations, fine tactile response may be lost post-surgery, where this is identified it must be fully discussed, recorded and an indemnity form must be signed

Pre-treatment preparatory skin care programmes

Taught content

- Any pre-treatment advice and preparatory topical skin care/skin rejuvenation programmes that could be given to clients to improve scalp/skin health and condition and minimise side effects and optimize results of advanced micropigmentation and why they must be relevant to skin type, Glogau photo damage, Fitzpatrick skin type and skin condition
- Benefits – improved cell health and function, increased desquamation, skin will heal at a faster rate, skin will be more tolerant of injury
- Topical skin care products, for example, vitamins, anti-oxidants, UV protection, AHA and BHA skin care programmes prior to treatment, depending on strength, to cease 2-4 weeks prior, 6 months for Roaccutane
- Positive effects of advanced micropigmentation on a compromised skin condition, advantages and disadvantages

Types and purpose of advanced micropigmentation equipment, products and techniques

Taught content

- Differentiate between a hand tool and micropigmentation machine, advantages and disadvantages
- Needles/cartridges and configurations – flat, magnum, round, single point, sloped, micro, nano, shaders and liners, their effects and various techniques for effective implantation and distribution of pigment/lake
- Pigments/lakes – organic, inorganic advantages and disadvantages, pigment/lake dilutant/boosters effects and uses
- Implantation techniques – pointillism, pendulum, shading, obovoid, cross-hatching, sweep, stroke and their effects and appropriateness in advanced micropigmentation
- Treatment techniques – three-way stretch, settings, needle depth, speed, angle, pressure, depth, pigment dipping, wrist support, posture and positioning, treatment passes
- Effects – skin camouflage, scar camouflage, scar relaxation, skin rejuvenation, areola: simulation, reconstruction, enhancement, re-pigmentation, colour correction, symmetry and balance

Selection and preparation of equipment and products for treatment

Taught content

- Reasons for, and appropriate selection, preparation and use of PPE – disposable non-latex gloves, apron/gown, hair covering
- Understanding how to set up and work within a clinically clean field, how to prepare equipment on clean trolley in an ergonomic manner to prevent strain to the practitioner and to assist in the smooth application of treatment
- Why and how it is necessary to select and prepare all appropriate products and equipment before start of each treatment checking appropriate products and equipment are being used for treatment including automated device, disposable barrier film/sleeve, needles/cartridges (single use) of various configurations, pigments/lakes, pigment pots/cups, template drawing equipment – pencils, sharpener, measuring devices/callipers, stencils, mirror, swabs and disposables and appropriate waste bag, biohazard waste sharps box for disposal
- Understand why it is necessary to identify the client's skin tone and undertones to select the correct pigments/lakes and dilution for the client's skin and why and how it is necessary to mix or dilute pigments/lakes depending on the desired outcome or effects being created
- Understand why it is necessary to draw and agree a template and the selection of colour(s)/pigment(s)/lake(s) and record this with photographic evidence and with both the client's and therapist's signatures

Benefits and use of inhibitors

Taught content

- Post inflammatory pigmentation common in Fitzpatrick 4 (and above) types – use tyrosinase inhibitors
- Understand melanogenesis and the enzyme tyrosinase, where it is located and its function
- Understand how tyrosinase inhibitors can reduce the production of melanin and how this can protect against post inflammatory hyperpigmentation
- Knowledge of tyrosinase inhibitors and melanin suppressors, for example, azelaic acid, bearberry, liquorice root extract, ascorbic acid, kojic acid, niacinamide, L-arbutin, hydroquinone

Method of application

Taught content

- Reasons and how to work systematically and methodically, avoiding excess treatment overlap across the areas to be treated
 - Reasons for working with the agreed template where appropriate
 - Plan treatment start and end point
 - Reasons for magnifying and illuminating the treatment area
 - Reasons for adequate skin support and manipulation of the treatment area to avoid skin distension, tearing, bruising, and ensure effective pigment/lake implantation and even distribution
 - Reasons for adapting the treatment to suit the client's physical and psychological needs
 - Reasons for employing different techniques to create desired effects and the correct treatment techniques to achieve the required depth of colour and pigment/lake distribution
 - Problems associated with uneven treatments, and how poor treatment techniques impact on the final result

Adaptations to treatment

Taught content

- How to adapt the treatment to take into account pre-existing conditions/lesions such as skin tags, moles and other areas to avoid
- Why it is necessary to adapt the settings, speed, angle, pressure, depth, techniques and the number of passes for different techniques and effects, different areas of the body and client sensitivity or comfort and desired outcome
 - Different skin (epidermal and dermal) depths and sensitivity, different treatment objectives and effects, treating different skin characteristics of varying structure and depth, different healing capacity, different skin types and classifications
 - Treatment progression and adaptations to future treatments to achieve the desired outcome with associated timeframes and any beneficial additional/complementary treatments

Uses, limitations, benefits and effects of advanced micropigmentation

Taught content

- Enhances the appearance of the skin by depositing pigment/lake into the upper dermal layers to camouflage areas of pigmentation loss or to rectify or simulate features on the face or body, and can also be used to improve or remodel scar tissue after surgery or trauma due to the stimulated release of growth factors as part of the wound healing mechanism due to advanced micropigmentation
 - Understand stages of wound healing
 - Wound, haemostasis
 - Inflammation
 - Proliferation
 - Remodelling – maturation
 - Cannot remove deep wrinkles or scars
 - Pigment/lake will fade and need regular maintenance treatments to ensure results are maintained
- Visible effects are not limited to and can include:
 - Definition of natural features
 - Improve the appearance or balance/correction of existing features
 - Skin camouflage, introducing/correcting skin colour, even out the appearance of hyper/hypopigmentation
 - Camouflage loss of pigmentation from scars/burns/birthmarks/vitiligo
 - Creation/simulation of natural features; areola reconstruction/simulation
 - Diminish the appearance scars/stretchmarks
 - Improvement in appearance of scars from surgery/trauma/scar relaxation
 - Skin rejuvenation (including laxity or stretchmarks)

Contra-actions associated with the treatment

Taught content

- Effects and risks of using excess pressure, speed, uneven implantation techniques and pigment/lake distribution or non-compliance to safety and hygiene practices on the final result
- Specific risks for advanced micropigmentation such as lack of retention, migration of pigment, colour fade/change
- How to manage contra-actions, what advice to give clients and when to refer to a medical practitioner
 - Bruising, irritation, localised allergic reaction, histamine reaction, urticaria, signs of infection, nausea, dizziness, fainting, hyperaemia, stinging, blistering, pain, excessive discomfort, migration of pigment, hypertrophic or keloid scarring

SPF and UVA specific sun protector

Taught content

- Why it is necessary to apply a minimum of a UVB SPF 30 and UVA specific sun protector two weeks post treatment to exposed treatment areas
- Knowledge of SPF rating system and why high % of block is required to protect the skin after advanced micropigmentation treatments
 - SPF 15 = 93% UVB block
 - SPF 30 = 97% UVB block
 - SPF 50 = 98% UVB block
- Knowledge of UVA specific sun protector rating – star rating and the difference between physical and chemical sun cream

Preventing infection and promoting healing

Taught content

- Understand the products necessary to prevent infection and promote healing, how they should be used before and after advanced micropigmentation treatments. Anti-bacterial solution applied on sterile cotton pad or gauze and the use of sterile dressing packs to provide a sterile field as necessary
- To promote healing – calming products/healing balm/cream post treatment – anti-inflammatory effects, lifestyle factors and changes that may be required to promote healing and activities which might inhibit or compromise healing

Treatment progression and additional/complementary treatments recommendations

Taught content

- Advice regarding post treatment expectations and associated time frames with regard to healing and how the healing process affects pigment/lake
- Recommendations for appropriate intervals between treatments depending on area treated and treatment objectives, changes to needle/cartridge configurations and techniques to create particular effects as treatments progress towards final desired outcome, home care
- Complementary products to be used in conjunction – topical healing products
- Knowledge of progressive remedial treatments and products as appropriate for the skin health/condition/type to promote healing and give protection
- Fitzpatrick skin classification and Glogau photo damage and knowledge of how the skin benefits and responds to advanced micropigmentation. Knowledge of post treatment expectations and associated time frames, maintenance treatment timings and use of skin care programmes at home to encourage healing and prolong treatment effects
- Lifestyle factors and changes that may be required to improve effectiveness of treatment – skin care routine, healthy eating, exercise and sun protection

LO3 Demonstrate how to consult, plan, design and prepare for advanced micropigmentation treatments

Use consultation techniques to determine the client's treatment plan

Taught content

- Consult with client, implementing a range of appropriate communications skills to ensure a realistic and achievable treatment plan is agreed
- All information from the consultation to be written on consultation forms in front of the client at the beginning of every treatment to inform the final treatment plan
- Obtain the client's agreement and signed informed consent prior to all treatments
- The practitioner and client must understand the implications of informed client consent and what is being agreed and the responsibility of each in terms of liability

Consult with the client

Taught content

- General information
- Relevant medical history – discuss all areas on consultation documentation including any recent herpes simplex, certain medications including anti-coagulants and hormonal moderators (Tamoxifen, Raloxifene, aromatase inhibitors, luteinising hormone releasing hormone agonists/LH blockers (Zoladex), Fluvestrant)
- Skin classification and skin conditions, skin sensitivity (vascular) and healing history – facial erythema, acne rosacea, telangiectasia, spider naevi, keloid formation, scars, hypertrophic, atrophic, birthmarks, trauma, indications for the aims of treatment – defining natural features, creating natural features, correcting natural features, improving and balancing features, introducing skin colour, skin camouflage, simulated areola, scar relaxation, skin rejuvenation, freckles
- For areola simulation record client's previous medical procedures – unilateral/bilateral mastectomy, breast implants, tissue graft, nipple reconstructions (type and projection) areola shape, symmetry of breasts, symmetry of nipple areola, radiation, chemotherapy, scar description, sensation, date of last surgery, delayed healing, post-surgical infections, tissue necrosis
- Explain the treatment process in line with supplier/manufacturer recommendations, the physical sensation of the treatment and the appearance of the scalp/skin post treatment. Discuss associated timeframes and changes associated with healing including the effect of healing on the pigment/lake and the likely changes the client will see or experience. Explain any downtime requirements and activities to avoid post treatment
- Explain potential risks/side effects/adverse effects, reactions and contra-actions such as erythema, oedema, weeping, scabbing, scarring, hypertrophic and atrophic scarring, localised allergic reaction, histamine reaction, urticaria, signs of infection, increased photosensitivity
- Finalise and agree the treatment plan, addressing client needs, expectations (both realistic and unrealistic) and treatment objectives using information from the initial consultation and visual skin assessment, any template drawn, pigment/lake/dilutant selection and agreement to aftercare adherence decline treatment where applicable

Establish the condition of the skin

Taught content

- Where physical examination of the treatment site is required gain permission to look/touch respecting modesty at all times
- Use Woods lamp, magnifying lamp/glasses or skin diagnostic equipment and perform a visual assessment of the condition and health of the skin and surrounding area, colour swatches/wheel for skin tone and undertone clarification documenting all findings
- Skin characteristics – Fitzpatrick scale 1-6, Glogau photo damage, level of sensitivity, thickness of skin, epidermal thickness, healing capacity
- Skin types, skin conditions, surface hydration, pigmentation, photo/sun damage, vascular lesions, primary and secondary lesions, irregularities, skin texture (pore size), skin laxity, static and dynamic wrinkles, congestion/excessive oil
- Site, age and reasons for treatment/scarring or alteration of skin colour including burns, surgery, accidents, insect bites, acne, chicken pox, stretch marks, vitiligo. Type of scarring such as hypertrophic/keloid, atrophic, lollypop, ice pick, boxcar and rolling scars. Assess depth, suitability for treatment, realistic proposed camouflage or improvement of area/scar tissue and/or appearance
- Skin colour, skin tone and undertones
- Identify localised contra-indications that may restrict, prevent or require medical referral. Make note of the contra-indications on the client's record card

Ensure client comfort

Taught content

- Position client and self in a comfortable manner
- Explain the physical sensation of the treatment and the expected sensation and appearance of the skin post-treatment to the client and associated timeframes and changes associated with healing including the effect of healing on the pigment/lake and the likely changes the client will see or experience
- Explain in line with supplier/manufacturer recommendations

Explain the treatment procedures to the client

Taught content

Treatment procedure to include:

- Explain the positioning required for treatment
- How to position client and self in a comfortable manner with head supported, to access fully the treatment area
- The use of topical anaesthetic/numbing agents if required, how they will be applied and covered in barrier film to take effect for the required time (20-45 minutes depending on the product used) whilst all consultation details are confirmed and checked with the client, and final selection and preparations are made
- The limiting effect of using topical anaesthetic/numbing agents in camouflage procedures making it difficult to read the skin's natural colouration, and the density of implanted pigment/lake required
- How advanced micropigmentation needle/cartridge configurations are selected to match treatment objectives
- How pigments/lakes are selected, mixed and diluted where appropriate, tested and agreed with the client to create the desired effects with batch numbers and ratios noted on the consultation form
- The various techniques that will be used to create the desired effects
- Use of sterile dressing packs, saline and chlorhexidine solution to prepare a clinically clean field and why a sterile field is not possible nor required
- The practitioner will wear PPE – clean, disposable, non-latex sterile gloves, apron/gown, hair covering
- How the area will be cleansed thoroughly with appropriate cleanser until all make-up, debris, oils and residue topical anaesthetic/numbing agent is removed and cotton pads appear clean
- When and why pre treatment and post template photographs are to be taken
- Why a template might be used, how it is drawn, if applicable, and agreed with the client
- How the appropriate needle/cartridge is then taken from its sealed packet/cartridge in front of the client and how the needle/cartridge condition checked
- The needle/cartridge is loaded at this point and the needle depth is checked, test movement to ensure needle(s) moves freely and how the speed may also be selected depending on the device being used and the client/treatment needs
- Once set up, inform the client where the treatment will begin (depending on area being treated)
- Why the area will be treated in small zones in a multi-directional application as appropriate to the techniques being used for the effects to be created
- Why the area may be treated a number of times (depending on area, pigment/lake retention and techniques used), product/pigment/lake/booster/further numbing agent may be applied at certain stages in the treatment. Clients will be required to give verbal feedback throughout the treatment using the 1-10 pain threshold scale, there are areas where it may feel a little more sensitive
- How visual monitoring of the treatment area and surrounding skin is carried out at all times by the practitioner throughout the treatment
- After treatment, excess pigment/lake will be removed, calming and nourishing products/healing balm/cream will be applied to the skin
- How and why post treatment photographs are to be taken
- How the skin might feel sore, tight and surrounding skin may appear slightly red or blanched (variations depend on each individual and the size and location of the area treated, techniques, needle depth and anaesthetic/numbing agent used)
- What post-treatment physical sensation and expectations and how they may differ to each individual
- Why it is important to follow aftercare advice and avoid certain activities to minimise the risk of adverse reactions or contra-actions and how to treat the area post treatment, how to manage reactions at home and if concerned contact practitioner in the first instance
- Inform client of waste disposal methods for contaminated equipment and treatment waste

Select a preparatory skin care programme

Taught content

- Identify products to use 2-4 weeks prior to advanced micropigmentation treatments as part of a skin priming programme at home, appropriate to skin health to improve healing capacity and tolerance of advanced micropigmentation treatment
- Additional benefits could include:
 - Improve hydration, skin cell health and general texture/condition of the skin, retention of pigment/lake
- As part of this skin programme the client should also be asked to wear SPF minimum 30 and UVA broad spectrum protection daily

Finalise and agree the treatment plan

Taught content

- Finalise and agree the treatment plan, addressing client needs, expectations (both realistic and unrealistic) and treatment objectives using information from the initial consultation, visual skin assessment, template drawn, pigment/lake/dilutant selection and agreement to aftercare adherence. Decline treatment where applicable

Obtain signed, informed consent

Taught content

- Ensure all documents are signed after treatment plan agreed including any templates drawn. The practitioner and client must understand the implications of informed client consent and what is being agreed
- All information from consultation to be written on consultation documents in front of the client at the beginning of every treatment
- Informed client consent to be obtained before every practical treatment

Take pre-treatment photographs

Taught content

- Follow organisation procedures, industry guidelines and current data protection legislation, ensuring protocols are followed for taking clinical photographs to ensure clarity and consistency. Take all photographs (before and after template (if applicable) in same position and, where possible, in the same light for all treatments performed. Position area to be treated so photographs are taken straight on and from both sides where applicable, zoom in on treatment area. Personal devices should not be used to take images of clients.
- Gain written/signed client consent for photography and storage of clinical photographs and specific use of photographs for marketing and teaching purposes

Carry out skin sensitivity tests

Taught content

- Carry out all sensitivity tests in accordance with supplier/manufacturer recommendations, allergy/product tests at least 48 hours before treatment, thermal and tactile tests immediately prior to treatment in the treatment area

Select suitable equipment and products

Taught content

- Select suitable equipment and products according to treatment objectives. Choose the correct equipment and products suitable to treat conditions/effects and desired outcome in the agreed treatment plan

Explain the cooling off period

Taught content

- Provide information to the client regarding the 'cooling off' period of at least 48 hours between initial consultation and first treatment. Book first treatment in line with given directives on cooling off periods. Give client verbal and written information regarding the healing process, after effects, home care/additional routines required, post treatment expectations and associated time frames, agreed treatment plans with appropriate intervals and further maintenance required

LO4 Demonstrate how to provide advanced micropigmentation treatments

Maintain own responsibilities for health and safety through the treatment

Taught content

- Ensure working area is set up and a safe working environment created in line with health and safety protocols and legislation.
- Clinically clean field to be prepared and appropriate PPE to be worn and given to the client as required
- Work in an environmentally sustainable manner
- Ensure ventilation, temperature, ambience, lighting, wall and floor coverings are fit for purpose
- Ensure all tools, products and equipment are available, in date and in safe working order
- Ensure risks and hazards have been checked
- Ensure treatment area is magnified and well lit

Prepare, position and protect the client and self

Taught content

- Ensure preparation complies with legal and organisational requirements. Prepare and protect client to avoid cross-infection. Protect client's eyes, hair and modesty when appropriate, clothing and surrounding areas depending on the location and size of area to be treated
- Position and support the client comfortably throughout to ensure the position meet the needs of the treatment without causing them discomfort
- Clearly instruct the client and, if needed, use covered supports or pillows to ensure the treatment application is not compromised and does not cause the client any discomfort
- Ensure effective, ergonomic positioning of treatment chair/couch, trolley, stool, equipment and products to avoid injury to self, client and others
- Ensure own posture and working methods minimise fatigue and the risk of injury to self, the client and others

Maintain client's modesty and privacy at all times

Taught content

- Ensure the working environment is private and secure. Depending on area to be treated provide disposable modesty coverings/towels/disposable tissue to protect clothing or areas not being treated and provide modesty so the client does not feel exposed and vulnerable

Ensure the use of clean equipment, products and materials

Taught content

- Ensure all surfaces are clean and hygienic, trolley is tidy with equipment and products set out ergonomically, all expiry dates checked and in date and sealed packaging for needles/ cartridges is intact.
- Ensure that sufficient disposable PPE is available and fit for purpose
- Ensure the use of sanitisation, sterile dressing pack to prepare a clinically clean field, disinfectants for surfaces and equipment, disposable protective/barrier film/covers as required for treatment

Safe use of equipment, materials and products

Taught content

- Follow protocols for safe use including correct use of advanced micropigmentation systems, selection of needle/cartridge configuration, settings, speed, angle, pressure, depth and implantation techniques for different treatment effects and objectives. Keep tops on bottles, make sure all products are labelled clearly in line with COSHH, decant products into single use pots/pigment cups to ensure correct amount is used prior to treatment where indicated
- Ensure a clinical biohazard waste receptacle is ergonomically placed for use throughout the treatment as needed

Select appropriate PPE

Taught content

- Use of PPE (sterile, disposable gloves non-latex) that fits the individual correctly so as not to interfere with work, worn correctly each time, used and changed as appropriate throughout treatment and disposed of in contaminated waste receptacle when changing and after use. A disposable apron/gown and facial mask for practitioner. Stored correctly, checked and maintained so fit for purpose

Selection of equipment

Taught content

- Automated pen – hand piece is cleaned and protected with disposable sleeve/film. Needles/cartridges are opened from a new sealed, sterile package in front of the client
- Ensure selection of appropriate single use needles/cartridges with the correct configuration are new, sealed and prepared in line with health and safety guidelines for each client
- Check the condition and note the expiry date and batch numbers of needles/cartridges and that all sealed packaging is intact and record in the treatment details, discard any that are past their expiry date or have damaged packaging
- Load the needle/cartridge in accordance with suppliers/manufacturer instructions and check that once loaded the needle moves freely, adjust to the correct level and speed

Needle configuration selection

Taught content

- Select the needle(s)/cartridge(s) configuration(s) for the skin condition, desired effects and treatment objectives:
 - Skin camouflage
 - Defining natural features
 - Creating natural features
 - Correcting natural features
 - Improving/balancing features
 - Introducing skin colour
 - Correcting skin colour
 - Improving the appearance of scars
 - Skin rejuvenation
 - Flat
 - Magnum
 - Round
 - Single point
 - Sloped
 - Micro
 - Nano
 - Shaders and liners
- Match configuration(s) to treatment objectives, skin health characteristics and desired effects
 - Pointillism
 - Pendulum
 - Shading
 - Obovoid
 - Cross-hatching
 - Sweep
 - Stroke

Pigment/Lake selection

Taught content

- Select the pigments/lakes/dilutant suitable for the client's skin tone, undertones, condition and treatment objectives:
 - Organic
 - Inorganic
 - Dilutant
- Match to treatment objectives and skin health characteristics, skin colour, tone and undertones, previous micropigmentation treatments and other contributing factors
 - Skin colour
 - Warm/cool
 - Skin tone
 - Skin undertone
 - Primary colours
 - Secondary colours
 - Tertiary colours
 - Colour correction
 - Opacity/translucence
- Mix, check and agree selection with client and note pigment(s)/lake(s), dilutants/boosters, ratios, batch numbers on the treatment plan

Prepare the skin

Taught content

- Apply topical anaesthetic/numbing agent to treatment area if required following supplier/manufacture instructions/recommendations
- Ensure the client's skin is clean and prepared for advanced micropigmentation treatment. Cleanse professionally with an appropriate cleanser to ensure all make-up, oils, residual topical aesthetic/numbing agent and debris are removed thoroughly. Protect vulnerable areas as needed
- Draw and agree template, if applicable

Apply the advanced micropigmentation treatment

Taught content

- Apply anaesthetic/numbing agent prior to advanced micropigmentation treatment as appropriate
- Follow recommended protocol using adequate skin support and manipulating the skin to assist with effective implantation techniques and even distribution of pigment/lake and to avoid skin distension, tearing, bruising, excessive pressure or over treatment
- Divide area into small areas (zones), select starting point
- Work in a methodical and systematic manner checking client comfort and wellbeing throughout, taking breaks as necessary, to cover the area to be treated using the required treatment techniques
- Avoid uneven treatment, overlap or overworking the area
- Adjust and adapt the settings, speed, angle, pressure, duration and depth of treatment techniques to suit the client's skin characteristics, treatment objectives, including adaptation for skin type and skin condition, and client comfort, demonstrate various treatment techniques to create desired effects and treatment objectives
- Continually discuss sensation and level of discomfort with client throughout treatment. Know when to stop/adapt or adjust the treatment as appropriate
- Ensure all aftercare is given verbally as well as written and encourage client to ask questions to clarify
- Ensure treatment is completed in a commercial timeframe dependent on size of area and desired results and treatment objectives

Monitor the skin reaction and client response

Taught content

- Monitor the skin's reaction and client response and wellbeing (using 1-10 pain threshold scale) – degree of erythema, bleeding, and pigment/lake retention
- Adapt the treatment to suit the client's physical and psychological needs
- Observe skin and client reaction and know when to discontinue treatment due to excessive discomfort, erythema, bleeding or lack of pigment/lake retention

Apply post-treatment products

Taught content

- Apply a clean pad or swab to the area after advanced micropigmentation to remove excess pigment/lake/tissue fluids
- Follow supplier/manufacturer instructions for techniques used when appropriate
- Apply appropriate products to calm and soothe the skin
- Healing balm/cream, topical anti-inflammatories, anti-oxidants

Take post-treatment photographs

Taught content

- Follow protocols for taking clinical photographs to ensure clarity and consistency. Take all photographs after treatment in same position and where possible in the same light as before and after template (if applicable) photographs, for all treatments performed. Position area to be treated so photographs are taken straight on and from both sides where applicable, zoom in on treatment area
- Personal devices should not be used to take images of clients
- Confirm clients' consent for storage of clinical photographs and specific use of photographs for marketing and teaching purposes

Provide post care advice and homecare

Taught content

- Immediate skin response
 - Erythema, some slight inflammation or swelling, mild to moderate discomfort, may feel tight or hot sensation. Give client advice on post-treatment and post-treatment products, method of application and frequency of use
- Post-treatment visual changes and expectations and associated timeframes
 - All physical sensations and effects post treatment are individual and may differ from client to client, and will depend on size of area treated, the techniques performed and individual skin characteristics, generally treated area may feel tight or sore and implanted colour usually appears darker initially and then lighter as it heals, clients can experience 30-70% loss of colour
 - Day 1 – possible localised erythema and mild discomfort with minor swelling, surrounding skin may appear flushed or blanched, some weeping may occur, clean with warm water and mild antibacterial solution, apply healing balm/cream at regular intervals
 - Day 2 – erythema and mild swelling often starts to subside, scabs may start to form, continue to cleanse and apply healing cream at regular intervals
 - Day 5-7/10 depending on procedure and area treated (up to 3 weeks for areola) – skin may feel tight, any scabs will fall off and pigment/lake may appear altered, continue to cleanse and apply healing cream at regular intervals
 - 4-8 weeks – follow up appointment
 - Advise client how to cope with skin changes and provide a point of contact
- Post-treatment advice
 - Avoid washing the area for at least 5-7 days

- Avoid AHAs, BHAs in future skincare routine as these could fade the pigment/lake
- Wash hands before touching treated area
- To clean or, if the area weeps, bathe with clean warm water and mild antibacterial cleanser
- Apply healing balm/cream 2-4 times a day with a clean cotton bud/pad to each area
- Do not scratch, rub or pick the area or pull off scabs which will fall off naturally, if concerned contact therapist in the first instance
- Avoid pets and unclean surfaces to reduce risk of infection
- Avoid immediate vigorous exercise and other spa/beauty treatments
- Avoid sun exposure, heat treatments, polluted atmospheres and topical preparations (except those recommended by the practitioner)
- Provide advice on suitable post-treatment products including the appropriate use of broad spectrum sunscreen – physical SPF 30 minimum with UVA protection 2 weeks post procedure
- Provide advice for ongoing/further advanced micropigmentation treatments and treatments which may be used in conjunction
- Follow manufacturer/supplier recommendations in respect of treatment frequency
- Occasional side effects and how to avoid/manage them and when to refer to a medical practitioner
 - If concerned contact the practitioner in the first instance

Dispose of waste materials to meet legal requirements

Taught content

- Dispose of ALL waste from the treatment into biohazard clinical waste bags in line with local authority regulations/legislation and dispose of following COSHH procedures
- Ensure compliance with protocols to avoid cross-infection when handling post-treatment equipment and dispose of needles/cartridges into sharps box handling safely and correctly
- For automated devices, turn off and unplug where applicable, remove protective film/covers and dispose of in clinical biohazard waste.
- Clean handpiece of device following supplier/manufacturer instructions and licensing requirements
- Dispose of any swabs/cotton pads or waste from treatment application with all PPE into clinical biohazard waste bag

Update client records

Taught content

- Accurate completion of treatment details, recording advanced micropigmentation equipment used, needle/cartridge sizes, configurations and batch numbers, pigment/lake selection, dilutant and mixing ratios (where appropriate) with batch numbers, machine settings, speed, angle, pressure and depth of treatment techniques, skin preparation including cleansing and application of topical anaesthetic or numbing agent, implantation techniques used and duration of treatment, client response to sensation, pigment/lake retention and skin response, observation of area and surrounding/adjacent skin during and after treatment. Signature from client to be obtained accepting treatment results and skin response and agreeing to follow post care/post treatment advice. Photographs of treated area. Practitioner signature to take responsibility for treatment and records completed

Provide and manage post-treatment communications and outcomes

Taught content

- Communicate with the client regarding post-treatment care and concerns
- Inform the client how to manage complications/adverse reactions at home and when to refer to a medical practitioner
- Provide and inform the client of protocol for formal complaints
- Document post-treatment complications and adverse reactions in line with legislation and organisation guidelines

COVID-19 infection prevention awareness

Please note this information will not be assessed for the achievement of this unit.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, public awareness and the importance of infection prevention has never been higher.

Professionals in the beauty and advanced aesthetics therapy industry work in close contact with clients; knowledge, and understanding of how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and work safely is essential.

Actions to take to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory infections and protect those at highest risk:

- Get vaccinated
- Maintain adequate ventilation
- Break the chain of infection:
 - Hand hygiene – hand washing and sanitising
 - Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
 - Decontamination of the working environment
- Use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Use of face coverings or face masks

If you require any additional information, please refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/reducing-the-spread-of-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19-in-the-workplace>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/living-safely-with-respiratory-infections-including-covid-19>

If your learners are interested in learning more about COVID-19 infection prevention awareness alongside this qualification, VTCT offers the following qualifications: VTCT (ITEC) Level 2 Award in Infection Prevention (COVID-19) for Beauty Therapy and Nail Services or the VTCT (ITEC) Level 2 Award in Infection Prevention (COVID-19) for Clinical Aesthetics

These qualifications have been specifically designed for those working in the beauty and advanced aesthetic therapy sectors. Learners will be able to develop knowledge on the importance of social responsibility, the causes, transmission and effects of COVID-19, and the methods used to control transmission such as correct hand hygiene and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

These qualifications will enable beauty professionals to gain an understanding of the safe working practices required in the beauty and advanced aesthetic therapy sectors to protect themselves and their clients from COVID-19 and other respiratory infections.

Assessment requirements

Learners are required to complete all assessment requirements related to this unit:

1. Clinical case studies
2. Theory examination
3. Practical examination

1. Clinical case studies

Learners must produce a treatment portfolio which is required to be completed under the supervision of a lecturer. All clinical case studies must be completed and marked prior to the learner completing the practical and theoretical examinations.

Learners must complete case study practice on a minimum of 5 separate clients. which must meet all treatment objectives across the range and the following effects: 3 skin treatments (1 skin camouflage, 1 scar relaxation, plus 1 other) and 2 areola treatments (any two different procedures from the range one performed on a client and one other which may be performed on prosthetics)

Each practice needs to include a full medical history of the client, advanced skin assessment, before, during and after pictures (including any template drawn) and a full description of the conditions/characteristics to be treated. A detailed description of the equipment, settings, speed, angle, pressure, depth and implantation techniques used, needles/cartridges, configurations, pigments/lakes/dilutants/boosters and relevant batch numbers, any topical anaesthetics/numbing agents used, the duration of the treatment, full aftercare advice and healing products recommended, and home care advice must also be provided. Each case study must also include an evaluation of the treatment and its outcomes including recommendations of ongoing maintenance treatments needed and associated time frames.

Range to be included in clinical applications:

- Met the needs of a variety of clients:
 - New
 - Existing
- Carried out all consultation techniques
 - Questioning – verbal
 - Listening – non-verbal
 - Visual – non-verbal
 - Manual
 - Written
 - Pre, during and post-treatment photographs taken
- Carried out skin sensitivity test
- Carried out advanced skin assessment
- Met all treatment objectives
 - Defining natural features
 - Creating natural features
 - Enhancing natural features
 - Balancing features/skin colour
 - Introducing skin colouring
 - Correcting skin colour
- Effects

- Skin camouflage
- Scar relaxation
- Scar camouflage
- Skin rejuvenation
- Areola
 - simulation
 - reconstruction
- Enhancement
- Re-pigmentation
- Colour correction
- Symmetry
- Balance
- Treatment areas
 - Face
 - Body
 - Breast/Chest
- Considered all factors of skin characteristics
 - Fitzpatrick scale (1-6)
 - Glogau photo-damage
 - Level of sensitivity
 - Thickness of skin
 - Epidermal thickness
 - Healing capacity
 - Age of scar/lesion/reason being treated
 - Size of scar/lesion/area being treated
 - Integrity of surrounding skin
 - Skin colour, tone and undertone
- Taken all courses of necessary action
 - Explaining why treatment cannot be carried out
 - Encouraging the client to seek medical advice if applicable
 - Modification of treatment
- Types of equipment
 - Hand tool
 - Machine
- Types of needles/cartridges
 - Flat
 - Shaders and liners
 - Magnum
 - Round
 - Single point
 - Sloped
 - Micro
 - Nano
- Pigments/lakes
 - Organic
 - Inorganic
 - Pigment/lake dilutant
 - Boosters
- Given all advice and recommendations

- Suitable post care products and their uses
- Pre-treatment skincare products and lifestyle recommendations
- Avoidance of activities which may cause contra-actions
- Modifications to lifestyle patterns
- Recovery and skin healing process including the effects on pigment/lake over time
- Post-treatment contra-actions and how to deal with them
- Frequency and benefits of future maintenance treatments and associated time frames
- Treatments which could be given in conjunction before advanced micropigmentation treatments
- Present and future products and treatments recommended
- Use of SPF products
- Issuing of oral and written post-care advice
- Recording before and after photographs

2. Theory examination

Learners must complete a theory examination for this unit. This will consist of a multiple choice question paper, which is mapped to the relevant assessment criteria stated below.

The theory examination will test knowledge and understanding from across learning outcomes 1 and 2. Learners should use the unit content sections of this unit to aid revision since exam questions will test the full breadth of this content over time.

Learning Outcome	Assessment Criteria
LO1 Interpret the environmental and safety considerations when providing advanced micropigmentation techniques	1.1. Promoting environmental and sustainable working practices
	1.2. Licensing regulations for the aesthetic practitioner and premises
	1.3. Insurance guidelines
	1.4. Safety of product and equipment sourcing
	1.5. Suppliers' and manufacturers' instructions for safe use
	1.6. Working in line with organisational processes
	1.7. Hygiene considerations
	1.8. Contra-indications that would restrict or prevent treatment and referral procedures
	1.9. Contra-indications requiring medical referral
	1.10. When to consult with other aesthetic/medical professionals
	1.11. Treatments of minors
	1.12. Hazards and risks

Learning Outcome	Assessment Criteria
LO2 Comprehend protocols and guidelines when providing advanced micropigmentation techniques	2.1. Structure and function of the breast
	2.2. Common disorders of the breast
	2.3. Breast oncology, hormone therapy and reconstructive surgery
	2.4. Factors to consider when treatment planning
	2.5. Assessing skin characteristics
	2.6. Pre and post treatment advice to provide to the client
	2.7. Timing of treatments
	2.8. Pain thresholds, sensitivity variations and testing
	2.9. Pre treatment preparatory care programmes
	2.10. Types and purpose of advanced micropigmentation equipment, products and techniques
	2.11. Selection and preparation of equipment and products for treatment
	2.12. Benefits and use of inhibitors
	2.13. Method of applications
	2.14. Adaptations to treatment
	2.15. Use, limitations, benefits and effects of advanced micropigmentation
	2.16. Contra-actions associated with the treatment
	2.17. SPF and UVA specific sun protector
	2.18. Preventing infection and promote healing
	2.19. Treatment progression and additional/complementary treatments recommendations

3. Practical Examination

The content of LO3 and LO4 are assessed by a practical examination.

The practical examination will be conducted by an external examiner.

In preparation for the practical examination, centres are advised to ensure learners have carried out a series of formatively assessed case studies, comprising of complete practical treatments, in accordance with the practical assessment criteria for the qualification.

It is essential centres use the Practical Assessment Criteria document in order to prepare learners for the Practical Examination. This can be found on the VTCT and ITEC websites.

The Practical Examination must take place under controlled conditions, in a realistic working environment on a real client and in a commercially acceptable time frame for the practical treatment being examined

Document History

Version	Issue Date	Changes	Role
V1.0	21/11/2022	First published	Product and Regulation Coordinator