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| CORRECTIONAL MANAGED<br>HEALTH CARE<br><br>POLICY MANUAL | Effective Date: 10/2023 | Number G-60.1<br><br>Page 1 of 5 |
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|  | Formulated: 10/2023     |                                  |
| Tattoo Removal Program                                   |                         |                                  |

**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines for inmate tattoo removal services, which are available on a voluntary basis for the purpose of promoting successful reentry.

**POLICY:** Inmates who are near release, as described below, from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, have completed a gang renouncement program, or have a tattoo as a result of human trafficking can request to be considered for the possibility of tattoo removal.

**DEFINITIONS:**

“Tattoo” is a deliberate decorative implanting or injecting of indelible pigments into the skin or the tinctorial effect of accidental implantation.

“Tattoo Removal Service Coordinator” is an individual designated by the Reentry and Reintegration Division Director to coordinate the voluntary tattoo removal process.

“Tattoo Removal Technician” is an individual who is trained and certified to remove tattoos.

“Supervising Physician” is an individual who is trained and certified to remove tattoos and to order the removal of tattoos.

**PROCEDURES:**

I. Eligibility for Tattoo Removal

Parole eligible inmates participating in pre-release programming, or who have successfully completed a gang renouncement program are eligible for the voluntary tattoo removal process. Any inmate with a tattoo as a result of human trafficking may also be eligible regardless of release date.

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The removal process may require up to 12 sessions six- to eight-weeks apart; therefore, the inmate shall be a minimum of one year away from their date of release to complete the procedures.

\*Diabetics require sessions to be eight to ten weeks apart\*.

## II. Priority for Tattoo Removal

Priority for tattoo removal services is given to inmates with tattoos that:

- A. Are visible on the face neck or hands; or
- B. Reflect gang affiliation or human traffic branding.

Tattoos covered by clothing are lower on the priority list than visible tattoos.

## III. Medical Exclusion Criteria and Clinical Conditions which may Delay Laser Treatment

### 1. Exclusion criteria to eliminate the initiation of laser treatment includes the following:

- A. History of keloidal scarring;
- B. Currently on a medication that causes photosensitivity;
- C. Pregnant or lactating mothers;
- D. Currently taking anticoagulant medications;
- E. History of gold crystal administration;
- F. History of silver crystal administration;
- G. Active dermatosis or infection in the treatment area;
- H. Suspicion of a malignant lesion at the site; or
- I. Currently undergoing radiation or chemotherapy.

### 2. Clinical Conditions that may delay the initiation of laser treatment includes the following:

- A. Currently on antibiotics- must wait two weeks to begin treatment;
- B. History of Accutane administration- must wait twelve months to begin treatment;
- C. Chemotherapy within the last twelve months or radiation at the site within the last 6 months.

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- D. Recent sunburn or sun exposure with irritation noted to skin- wait four to six weeks before treatment;
- E. Other clinical conditions as determined by the supervising physician.

IV. Referral for Tattoo Removal

Inmates may submit a Tattoo Removal Request form or an I-60 for consideration of tattoo removal to the TDCJ tattoo removal service coordinator for review of eligibility requirements.

V. Procedures

A. The tattoo removal service coordinator shall:

1. Review the request;
2. Route the gang related tattoos request to the Regional Security Threat Group Coordinator and Rehabilitation Program (RPD) designee for review and approval. Upon their approval, the RPD designee will contact the TDCJ tattoo removal service coordinator.
3. Ensure the inmate completes the Laser Tattoo Removal Consent, Release of Liability, and Indemnity Agreement (attachment A) form
4. Forward all request, consent, release and agreement documents to designated university medical staff for scanning into the inmate’s electronic medical record
5. Submit a request in the inmate’s electronic medical record requesting a Tattoo Removal Clinical Health History Review (attachment B) form be completed.
6. Shall review the inmate’s medical records and the Tattoo Removal Clinical Health History Review form; and
7. Upon receipt of all completed forms, coordinate with the designated university healthcare staff who will schedule an appointment for the inmate to begin treatment.
  - a. Appointments shall be scheduled based on availability of appointments and date of release.
  - b. Inmates who refuse or miss tattoo removal appointments by choice will be removed from the program unless there is a reason beyond their control.
8. Upon completion of services or the inmate’s discharge from TDCJ, the tattoo removal service coordinator shall issue a completion certificate and make all needed notifications to TDCJ designated departments.

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- B. Unit medical staff shall complete the Tattoo Removal Clinical Health History form within five working days of request.
  - a. The form must be completed by a licensed physician, physician’s assistant, or nurse practitioner.
  - b. The completed form should be submitted within the Electronic Health Record.
  
- C. The tattoo removal technician shall:
  - 1. Provide the inmate with the Skin Care Before and After Laser Tattoo Removal Treatment (attachment C) form for review and signature.
  - 2. Review the completed forms provided by the tattoo removal service coordinator and assess the inmate to ensure that no medical contraindications are present.
  - 3. Collaborate with supervising physician to develop the treatment plan and document on the Tattoo Removal Treatment Plan ([attachment D]).
  - 4. Notify the tattoo removal service coordinator of the treatment plan.
  - 5. Provide tattoo removal services in accordance with the treatment plan.

## VI. Completing or Canceling of Services

- A. Services are complete when the inmate’s tattoo treatment plan is successfully completed.
- B. Services may be canceled if:
  - 1. The inmate acquires additional tattoos;
  - 2. The inmate is found in possession of tattoo paraphernalia;
  - 3. The inmate is noncompliant with requirements for the care of the areas treated by the tattoo removal program;
  - 4. The inmate presents a safety risk to self or others;
  - 5. Continuing the services presents a health risk to the inmate; or
  - 6. The inmate is scheduled to release before the treatment is complete.
  
- C. Cancellation of services will be coordinated between the tattoo removal technician and the tattoo removal services coordinator. The tattoo removal service coordinator shall make all needed notifications to TDCJ designated departments of service cancelation.

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VII. Compliance with State Regulations

- A. The TDCJ voluntary tattoo removal services comply with all applicable requirements in 25 Texas Administrative Code § 289.301.
- B. The university medical staff member who is designated as the Laser Safety Officer on the Department of State Health Services laser registration ensures compliance with 25 Texas Administrative Code § 289.301, which include safety, confidentiality, and record retention requirements.
- C. Only technicians who are qualified, as determined by the university medical providers may perform tattoo removal services.

References:

1. Texas Administrative Code Title 22 Examining Boards, Part 9 Texas Medical Board, Chapter 193 Standing Delegation Orders, Rule 193.17 Nonsurgical Medical Cosmetic Procedures
2. Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 410 Radioactive Materials and other Sources of Radiation, Subchapter M. Laser Hair Removal
3. The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) Position Statement 15.9 Performance of Laser Therapy by RNs or LVNs
4. The Texas Board of Nursing (BON) Position Statement 15.11 Delegated Medical Acts
5. The Texas Nursing Practice Act and Rules of the BON (22 TAC 217.11 (1)(A)).