Overview
This unit is about providing electrical epilation services to clients, treating the required areas of the face and body. Learners will develop the knowledge and skills to prepare for and provide a professional electrical epilation treatment. Learners will also develop their understanding of possible contra-indications, along with indications for, and benefits and effects of, professional electrical epilation treatments.

Learning outcomes
On completion of this unit, learners will:

LO1 Know the salon requirements for electrical epilation treatments
LO2 Understand the effects of, and indications for, electrical epilation treatments
LO3 Understand the differences between methods of electrical epilation treatments
LO4 Be able to prepare for electrical epilation treatments
LO5 Be able to provide electrical epilation treatments
Assessment requirements

Learners must produce a portfolio of evidence which includes:

1. Treatment portfolio
2. Summative practical assessment

1. Treatment portfolio

Learners must produce a treatment portfolio which contains assessed evidence covering all the theory assessment criteria in the unit. The treatment portfolio must also contain evidence relating to the practical assessment criteria.

At a minimum the treatment portfolio for this unit must include, client consultation and treatment records, covering all of the following:

- Carried out a minimum of 6 electrical epilation treatments should be recorded. The learner needs to be shown how to provide epilation service for the following areas:
  - Upper lip
  - Chin
  - Bikini line
  - Eyebrows
  - Underarm and neck
  - Abdomen or throat can be substituted for breast if clients requiring this service are hard to find. This will ensure learners still have practice of removing hair from an area with movement (due to breathing)
- Used all equipment
  - Diathermy machine
  - Blend/galvanic machine
  - Magnifying lamp
  - Selection of needles
  - Tweezers
  - Couch
  - Stool and trolley
- Used all products
  - Cleansing medium
  - Tinted antiseptic cream
  - Aftercare lotion
- Given all types of advice
  - Aftercare
  - Possible contra-actions
  - Post-treatment restrictions
  - Additional products and services

Evidence from the one summative practical assessment must also be presented in the portfolio.

The treatment portfolio must be completed prior to learners undertaking the one summative practical assessment.
2. Summative practical assessment

Learners must carry out a complete treatment which will be observed and marked by centre assessors. Learners must achieve all assessment criteria in order to pass and achieve the unit.

The practical assessment must take place in a real or realistic working environment on a real client. At a minimum the summative practical assessment for this unit must cover:

- **Treatment** – one complete area (recommended the lip and chin) of hair removal of a size and density sufficient to assess technique and method of application, (maximum treatment time 30 minutes)
- **Equipment** – machine, probe/needles, tweezers, magnifying lamp, couch, stool and trolley, sharps box
- **Products** – cleansing medium, tinted antiseptic after care lotion

Recorded professional discussion can also be used as an assessment method attached to the practical assessment and is particularly useful for gathering evidence for criteria related to evaluation and reflection. Professional discussions should be planned and recorded.
Unit content

LO1 Know the salon requirements for electrical epilation treatments

Describe how to set up the work area:
- Prepare the work area to allow for
  - Ease of access and free movement around the couch
  - Effective lighting and access to magnifying lamp
  - Hygienic set up of couch and trolley
  - Access to a sturdy stool
  - Selection of products and equipment to meet the needs of the client
- Ensure a safe working environment
  - Clean and hygienic work area
  - The use of a sharps box and requirements for needle and contaminated waste disposal
  - Effective positioning of couch trolley and stool to allow ergonomic and safe practice
  - No trailing wires

Describe how professional beauty therapists present themselves:
- Clean professional uniforms create a positive impression of the beauty therapist and the salon. Uniforms should be made from a comfortable fabric to facilitate the stretching involved in the treatment
- Beauty therapists should wear closed-in footwear, no jewellery, no piercings, hair neatly tied back, any fringe secured
- Personal hygiene and cleanliness including showering, covering cuts and abrasions, wearing deodorant or antiperspirant, oral hygiene, including clean teeth, fresh breath, are all important elements of professional presentation

Describe the salon requirements for record keeping:
- Accurate appointment systems, stationery, loyalty, rewards, acknowledgement of occasions
- How to establish and record clear information that is accurate and in logical order, how to refer to existing records
- Why it is advisable to take photographs of the treatment area pre- and post- treatment and how they should be taken
- Skin sensitivity tests, adaptations and modifications, recommendations
- Treatment planning and how to update records at the end of the treatment, update at each visit, maintained electronically, paper records

State the insurance and licensing requirements for the delivery of epilation treatments:
Learners must know the insurance and licensing requirements for the delivery of epilation treatments
- Licences are applied for at local council level. Each council will have slightly different requirements but as a general rule both the therapist and the premises will need to be licensed. The most current information on licensing is available on local authority websites and from professional membership association groups
- As a minimum a salon should hold, where applicable, employer’s insurance as well as public liability insurance and professional indemnity

Explain the legal requirements for providing treatments to minors:
- The age up to which an individual is classed as a minor and how this differs nationally
LO2 Understand the effects of, and indications for, electrical epilation treatments

Describe the contra-indications to electrical epilation treatments:
- Example of contra-indications that may prevent treatment: haemophilia, heart disorders, pacemakers, cochlear implant, contagious diseases and disorders, Hepatitis B, HIV, cancer or epilepsy
- Examples of contra-indications that may restrict treatment: steroid drugs, endocrine disorders, metal plates and pins, cardiovascular disorders, loss of tactile sensation in localised areas, skin disorders and diseases, nickel allergy, hairy moles, pregnancy, drugs/alcohol, cuts/abrasions/bruising, emotional problems, dermatographic skin condition, microdermabrasion or dermabrasion, chemical peels, latex allergy (wear vinyl gloves), certain medications (e.g. Ro-acutane, Retin A), breast implants (contra-indication to underarm treatment), epilepsy, diabetes, psoriasis, eczema, acne

Identify the areas specifically contra-indicated to electrical epilation:
- Nostrils
- Ears
- Eyelashes

Describe the importance, purpose and methods for carrying out patch tests:
- Patch test – recommended 24 hours before the treatment; this is performed by treating a small test area with all of the products and techniques intended to be used in the full treatment, to assess likely reactions to treatment. It is conducted to establish sensitivity and suitability for treatment

Describe the types of hair and common causes of excessive hair growth:
- Hair types
  - Lanugo – is very fine, soft, and usually un-pigmented, downy hair that can be found on the body of a foetus or newborn baby. It is usually shed at the 7 to 8 month of pregnancy or very shortly after birth. Replaced by vellus or terminal hair. Characteristics
    - Long, fine, downy and soft
    - No medulla and no pigment
  - Vellus – is fine hair that replaces lanugo hair and is found on most areas of the body. Treatment of fine hair is usually more uncomfortable due to the close proximity of sensory nerve endings recording pain and pressure. Characteristics
    - Fine hair growth
    - Shallow follicle
    - Often lacks a medulla
    - Often lacks pigmentation
    - Small root structure
    - Found on most areas of the body
    - Does not become terminal unless stimulated by topical or systemic conditions
  - Terminal – is coarse hair that covers specific areas, for example the scalp, underarm and pubic areas. Characteristics
    - Coarse hair growth
    - Deep follicle
    - Contains a medulla
    - Usually pigmented
    - Large root structure
    - Often curly
- Types of hair growth
  - Superfluous or excessive hair growth is the term given to hair that is normal for the given age, gender or race of the client but is considered socially unacceptable or personally undesirable
  - Hypertrichosis is hormone-stimulated growth which is considered abnormal for age, gender or race and is often seen as strong terminal growth of hair on the chin/upper lip, breast, neck, and abdomen or back of females
  - Primary hirsutism – puberty, pregnancy, menopause or other normal hormonal changes in the body. Hereditary or a genetic predisposition. Ethnic characteristics
  - Secondary or ‘true’ hirsutism – caused by endocrine disorders such as adrenogenital syndrome, adrenal tumours, virilising congenital adrenal hyperplasias, cushings syndrome, Stein-Leventhal syndrome, ovarian tumours, Archard-Thiers syndrome, Addisons disease, Acromegaly

- Common causes of excessive hair growth; congenital, systemic and topical
  - Medication such as chemotherapy, anti-depressants, anabolic steroids/HRT
  - Surgical intervention such as a hysterectomy
  - Hormone Replacement Therapy
  - Contraceptive Pill
  - Eating Disorders such as bulimia and anorexia nervosa
  - Stress
  - Mechanical stimulation – topical changes for example plucking, shaving, tweezing, threading, sugaring, waxing or abrasion

**Explain the factors that influence electrical epilation treatments:**
- Excessive hair growth will only be treatable if the cause is identified and medically dealt with if necessary. The beauty therapist will need to be aware of the protocols for referral to a healthcare professional, if it is in the best interest of the client. The type of hair, its strength and density, the location on the body, rates and stages of growth, cause, frequency of treatment and management of hair growth between treatments, will all need to be factors considered in order to achieve permanent hair removal eventually

**Describe the different methods of electrical epilation systems and understand their benefits:**
- Thermolysis, for example Short Wave Diathermy (SWD)/high frequency/radio frequency – oscillating alternating current at varying frequencies with a low voltage. Molecules in the hair follicle become agitated causing friction which creates the heat. The heat coagulates the hair follicle tissue
- Galvanic epilation – uses a direct current. The treatment causes a chemical reaction resulting in sodium hydroxide or lye. Most electrolysis units output 1ma (milliampere) to a maximum of 3ma. The naturally occurring salt and water atoms in the follicle change through ionization to form completely different substances at the negative and positive electrodes
- Blend method – combines both high frequency and galvanic and so offers a more speedy treatment, beneficial for sensitive skins. The high frequency warms the tissues making the follicle walls porous. The direct current creates ionisation, forms lye, invades the porous tissue and reaches the distorted areas
Explain the use of tools, products and equipment used for electrical epilation:
- Needle types – stainless steel, insulated steel, gold, platinum, pre-packed and sterilised (gamma irradiation/ethylene oxide gas) in disposable packets
- Needle sizes – one piece or two piece needles, this is a guide, match needle size to hair diameter
- Tools – epilation tweezers, needle holder (with or without switch) or foot pedal, selection of needles of various sizes
- Equipment – short wave diathermy (thermolysis) galvanic and/or blend machine. A magnifying lamp and sharps box
- Products for skin used in electrical epilation treatments – skin cleansers, antibacterial face wipes, antiseptic tinted moisturiser or soothing lotion for aftercare, sanitising solution and sterilising solution. Cotton wool, tissues, couch roll, disposable spatulas, cotton buds, disposable gloves, antiseptic hand cleansing gel, (use of products in compliance with manufacturers’ instructions)

Explain the factors that influence current intensity:
- Pain threshold and skin sensitivity – individual to the client but will influence the machine setting. Achieving the intensity of the current will be by establishing the ‘working point’ personalised for each client which will take into consideration their tolerable level
- Skin type – Dry, oily, sensitive and dehydrated: natural skin oils act as an insulator on the current, adversely affecting its application. Excessively oily skin might require pre and post treatment care advice to ensure it is in the best possible condition for treatment. Moisture levels are also extremely influential on the application of electrolysis, therefore advice on a well-balanced diet and the importance of adequate fluid intake is vital. Fine dry skin types tend to have smaller pores possibly making it harder to find the hair shaft opening
- Hair to be treated – whether the type is fine, coarse or curly. Its texture, density, length, previous hair management options and area to be treated are all influential factors on the level of current intensity and the initial few treatments provided for the client, will be spent looking for the correct working level
- Vellus – is fine hair that replaces lanugo hair and is found on most areas of the body. Treatment of fine hair is usually more uncomfortable due to the close proximity of sensory nerve endings recording pain and pressure. Characteristics:
  - Fine hair growth
  - Shallow follicle
  - Often lacks a medulla
  - Often lacks pigmentation
  - Small root structure
  - Found on most areas of the body
  - Does not become terminal unless stimulated by topical or systemic conditions
• Terminal – is coarse hair that covers specific areas, for example the scalp, underarm and pubic areas. Characteristics
  - Coarse hair growth
  - Deep follicle
  - Contains a medulla
  - Usually pigmented
  - Large root structure
  - Found in specific areas of the body (pubic, underarm, scalp)

• Duration of application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manual Thermolysis</td>
<td>1 to 3 seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computerised Thermolysis</td>
<td>1000th to 100th seconds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galvanic</td>
<td>Slower and sometimes more uncomfortable for the client</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blend</td>
<td>Minimum 6 seconds</td>
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</table>

• Needle size – refers to the diameter of the needle. The larger the diameter the larger the surface area for flow of current. A smaller needle will intensify the current into a more concentrated spot

• Needle type – the type of needle will influence the current in several ways. Gold needles conduct the current slightly more effectively than stainless steel so if using a gold needle, the intensity should be marginally lowered. Insulated needles conduct the current to the tip and are therefore only suitable for a thermolysis current. One-piece or two-piece needles

• Needle Quality – a good quality needle will allow for smoother insertions making the treatment more comfortable. The better the quality of the needle, the more possibility for a reduction in current levels resulting in less skin reaction

• Accurate insertion of needle – positioning of the electrologist and client to enable the needle-holder, wrist and elbow to be in the direction of hair growth. Angle of insertion – observe the angle the hair leaves the follicle. Correct depth is determined by assessing the ‘follicle feedback’ – skin indentation, needle bends due to resistance or loss of colour in the immediate area

• Moisture gradient – the skin has a natural moisture gradient which encourages the electrolysis action to take place at the base of the hair follicle. Sebum acts as an insulator and minimises the risk of skin disturbances on the skin’s surface, along with evaporation of any dermal moisture

Explain the restrictions to treatment outcomes with electrical epilation:
• Examples may include – client personal preferences such as pain threshold would need to be considered, the size and density of the area being treated, the client’s availability, timescales to work to and financial commitment

Explain how posture influences the treatment outcomes:
• Ensure therapist posture and positioning, whether standing or sitting, is correct, delivers appropriate techniques, appropriate space between client and therapist, to prevent injury, to achieve optimum results, to allow for correct probing, to allow for visual checks, correct working methods help to avoid Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI)
Describe the consequences of incorrect probing techniques:

- Incorrect probing techniques – incorrect choice of needle size, not securing the needle correctly in the probe, piercing of the sebaceous gland, removing the probe with the current flowing, inserting the probe with the current flowing. Unsteady hands. What will happen if the current is too high, how you might cause repetitive and severe burning, the causes of secondary infection and how to work on a curved follicles, using bent or blunt probes, insufficient current strength, inaccurate needle insertion (probing too deep or too shallow or prolonged) operating too quickly, using faulty equipment.

- Results of incorrect probing – indentations (pitting), tissue damage, black or blue marks (bruising) blanching, hyperpigmentation, hypopigmentation, raised lumps, scabs, scarring.

Describe the possible contra-actions that may occur during or after an electrical epilation treatment:

- Skin reactions such as
  - Erythema
  - Oedema
  - Blanching
  - Minor blood spots
  - Rash
  - Bruising
  - Burns
  - Broken/in-growing hairs
  - Histamine/allergic reaction

- These may all occur as possible contra-actions

Explain how to effectively respond to contra-actions:

- Discontinue treatment
- Take remedial action
- Record details

Describe the benefits of using cataphoresis to complete the treatment:

- This is a technique used after epilation treatment to tighten the pores, reduce inflammation and reduce reddening of the skin. It also has a germicidal effect.
LO3 Understand the differences between methods of electrical epilation treatments

Compare the different types of electrical epilation application techniques:
- In particular comparisons should be made between the different types of
  - Current
  - Needle types
  - Current application
  - Application time
  - Reaction on epidermal surface
  - Re-growth
  - Type of follicle
  - Effects if incorrectly applied

Describe the benefits of electrical epilation compared to alternative methods of hair removal:
- To include the benefits and drawbacks of
  - Shaving or cutting
  - Tweezing or plucking
  - Threading
  - Depilatory creams
  - Abrasive mitts
  - Waxing
  - Sugaring
  - Laser and IPL treatments
LO4 Be able to prepare for electrical epilation treatments

Prepare and check the client, work area, equipment and products for treatment:
- Prepare treatment area according to salon requirements – ensure a sturdy couch, trolley and stool are available to use. Organise access to skin cleansing and anti-bacterial, soothing products. The required machine with a selection of needles, needle holder with finger or foot pedal and sharps box
- Prepare yourself and your client using the appropriate products or techniques – ensure all relevant PPE equipment is available and to hand
- Check the client by completing a consultation
- Ensure all equipment and products are to hand and are working efficiently

Agree the service and check for contra-indications or restrictions to treatment:
- Verbal communication – speaking manner and tone, sensitive to client, open questioning related to treatment
- Non-verbal communication – eye contact, body language, listening
- Record keeping – contra-indication check, signatures, name, address, contact numbers, age range, reason for treatment, occupation, sport/hobbies, medical history, allergies/hypersensitivity, contact lenses, contra-actions, skin sensitivity tests recorded
- Establish
  - Skin type and characteristics. Current sensitivity levels, skin condition, medication and health concerns
  - Type, location and density of hair growth to be treated. Client expectations and wishes. Current methods of managing the growth, client commitment, both financial and economic
  - Age of client and the legal requirements for providing treatments to minors
  - The age up to which an individual is classed as a minor and how this differs nationally
- Skin characteristics
  - Sensitive
  - Dehydrated
  - Mature

Explain the treatment procedure to the client:
- Explain how the client should position themselves for treatment, how long the treatment will take and the sensation the client should expect to feel. Discuss the client’s expectations from treatment. Discuss how the client’s personal influencing factors may affect treatment

Ensure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is worn by yourself and the client:
- Beauty therapist – mask (for close working) gloves, apron
- Client eye mask to protect from the magnifying lamp, modesty wear (if appropriate)

Instruct the client on how to prepare for an electrical epilation treatment:
- Removal of clothing as appropriate, positioning throughout the treatment, closing eyes and use of eye mask whilst magnifying lamp is in use. How to work in time with breathing (depending on the area), communicating clearly when you are about to epilate near a sensitive area
LO5 Be able to provide electrical epilation treatments

Prepare the client’s skin for treatment:
- The area should be cleansed of all products and dried prior to treatment
- A mild exfoliation product may be used to ensure the skin is in optimum treatment condition

Select the equipment to achieve the desired results:
- Thermolysis, galvanic or blend machine, a variety of needles, probe with finger or foot pedal, tweezers, sharps box and any necessary consumable products required

Demonstrate epilation techniques, in line with the manufacturer’s instructions:
- Choose appropriate product for skin preparation
- Selection of equipment, needle type and size using the equipment and techniques in accordance with manufacturers’ instructions
- Stretch the area between the index and middle finger of the hand not probing
- Ensure the needle holder and needle are used at the correct angle, direction and needle depth for the hair follicle and the area to be treated
- Adjust the intensity and duration of current flow to ensure effective hair release to suit client tolerance, sensitivity and safety
- Smoothly remove the hair from the treated follicle without traction
- Work systematically to remove hair within the area(s) to be treated and the skin’s tolerance
- Dispose of removed hairs appropriately
- Soothe area with appropriate techniques and products
- Recording of outcome to treatment in hair removal and skin reaction
- Prevent excess waste of treatment time and consumables by preparing effectively and working efficiently
- Reassure the client and communicate your positioning instructions clearly during the service
- Complete the treatment by applying post treatment cleansing methods and appropriate after care products

Provide after-care:
- Avoid touching the skin too often. This will allow for effective healing to take place and it will prevent secondary bacterial infections being introduced into the area
- Avoid exposure to UV or heat stimuli. The skin will already be retaining heat in the areas treated so additional heat sources will encourage it to flare up and possibly become more prone to developing pigmentation disorders
- Avoid immediate application of make-up. If the client feels too self-conscious without make-up and their skin is unbroken and not too irritated, show them how to apply with minimal friction to the skin. Advice on the use of anti-bacterial tinted creams and the use of clean application tools (sponge or fingers) along with the benefits of using pump dispensed products
- Avoid excessive heat from treatment or exercise. By raising the body temperature the temperature in the treated area will be increased, prolonging the erythema reaction.
- The use of SPFs is recommended to combat the possible susceptibility to sun sensitivity and the resulting pigmentation disorders.
- Healthy eating and advice on fluid intake is recommended to ensure the client’s skin is at the optimum health and receptive to future treatment
• All lifestyle activities individual to the client that may need to be considered for the individual and appropriate advice given. Such as smoking, extreme outdoor sports or a dedication to swimming
• Advice and guidance provided on suitable skin care regime and homecare treatments to suit client’s skin type and conditions
• Methods of dealing with re-growth between treatments
• Cutting and shaving
• Advice on retail products to continue the beneficial effects of treatment

**Update and maintain treatment records:**
• Record the outcomes of the treatment ensuring records are up to date with the products and equipment used including any notable outcome of treatment, aftercare given and feedback from the client

**Prepare the treatment area for the next treatment:**
• Dispose of all waste, remove and safely store the sharps box, clean and store epilation equipment and products as per manufacturer’s instructions, ensure the treatment area is left clean and prepared for the next treatment
Employability skills to be demonstrated throughout the practical assessment

Communication:
- Adapt and tailor approach for different clients, e.g. new and existing clients, male and female clients
- Allow sufficient time for the consultation and communicate clearly and concisely to explain the concept of the treatment/service, encouraging clients to ask questions; offer reassurance
- Use positive verbal communication, e.g. speaking manner and tone of voice, being supportive, respectful, sensitive to client, using open questioning to obtain information
- Use positive non-verbal communication, e.g. eye contact, body language, actively listening
- Promote goodwill and trust by using good communication

Customer service:
- Have an awareness of the principles of customer service, e.g. quality, keeping promises, managing customer expectations, customer satisfaction, speed of services and treatments, offering reassurance
- Show good practice in customer service, e.g. meeting and exceeding customer needs and expectations, demonstrating a willingness to please the customer, treating the customer as an individual
- Invest time in explaining the concept of the treatment/service clearly but concisely to the client, encouraging them to ask questions
- Deal quickly and effectively with any complaints or issues, e.g. know whom to refer to if needed
- Know the importance of customer service to a business, e.g. professional image, reputation, customer retention, customer satisfaction, customer relationships
- Know the impact of poor customer service, e.g. dissatisfied customers will seek out competitors, loss of reputation, loss of profit, frequent complaints
- Manage client expectations and identify requirements

Commercial and environmental awareness:
- Adopt eco-friendly and cost-efficient use of resources, minimising waste, e.g. all products measured correctly; efficient use and correct disposal of consumables; recycling where possible
- Be aware of others and protect their ‘space’ when using products, specifically aerosols, e.g. sprays used in nail treatments or hair services
- All used products will be disposed of in accordance with the salon rules and legislative guidelines
- Ensure all electrical equipment switches are turned off when not in use
- Identify opportunities to promote and sell additional products and treatments, e.g. during consultation or when providing aftercare advice
- Talk and actively listen to gain knowledge of client preferences and routines so that the retail selling approach is personalised
- Be aware of competitors for commercial success, e.g. local salon offers and promotions, new treatments/services
- Know the unique selling points of treatments/services to offer the most appropriate advice
• Know business goals and sales targets to encourage focus on the vision of the business and its long term goals, e.g. seasonal promotional offers
• Know how to advertise and display special offers, promotions, e.g. local newspaper stories, awards, photographs, thank you letters/cards
• Promote any loyalty schemes or special offers for repeat/new clients and the benefits of other products and services, e.g. buy one get one free, introductory offers
• Offer new/additional products and services to existing or new clients to promote self/salon experiences
• Ensure the cost reflects the time taken to provide the treatment/service, reflecting commercial times allocated, e.g. tailor cost to client characteristics
Skin cancer awareness

Please note this information will not be assessed for the achievement of this unit.
Public awareness of skin cancer has never been higher, and yet skin cancer remains the fastest growing cancer in the UK, especially amongst young people. The chances of a positive outcome can be dramatically increased with early identification and diagnosis.

Professionals in hair, beauty, sports massage and health and wellbeing industries work closely with clients and in many cases have sight of areas of skin which may not be easily visible to the client. An informed awareness of the signs, symptoms and changes of appearance to be aware of when checking for early signs of cancer is a crucial tool for the conscientious practitioner in order to provide the most thorough service and in some cases, possibly lifesaving information signposting.

Signs to look for when checking moles include utilising the ABCDE guide:

**A** - Asymmetry – the two halves of the area/mole may differ in their shape and not match.

**B** - Border – the edges of the mole area may be irregular or blurred and sometimes show notches or look ‘ragged’.

**C** - Colour – this may be uneven and patchy. Different shades of black, brown and pink may be seen.

**D** - Diameter – most but not all melanomas are at least 6mm in diameter. If any mole gets bigger or changes see your doctor.

**E** - Elevation/evolving – elevation means the mole is raised above the surface and has an uneven surface. Looks different from the rest or changing in size, shape or colour. Anyone can get a suspicious mole or patch of skin checked out for free by the NHS by visiting their doctor, who may then refer to a dermatologist (an expert in diagnosing skin cancer).

If you require any additional NHS information please refer to [https://www.nhs.uk/be-clear-on-cancer/symptoms/skin-cancer](https://www.nhs.uk/be-clear-on-cancer/symptoms/skin-cancer)

If your learners are interested in learning more about skin cancer awareness alongside this qualification, VTCT runs the following qualification: VTCT Level 2 Award in Skin Cancer Awareness for Non-Healthcare Professionals.

This qualification has been specifically designed for those working in the sports massage, health and wellbeing, beauty, hairdressing and barbering sectors. It will enable learners to identify any changes to their client’s skin and to highlight those changes to the client using appropriate language and communication skills. It will enable the learner to raise awareness of skin cancer and signpost their clients to public information about skin cancer.

This qualification will enable hair, beauty and wellbeing professionals to gain the appropriate knowledge and communication skills required to provide non-diagnostic, professional advice and information to clients in a discrete, empathetic and confidential manner.

For more information please refer to the Record of Assessment book: [https://qualifications.vtct.org.uk/finder/qualfinder/1Record%20of%20Assessment%20Book/AG20529.pdf](https://qualifications.vtct.org.uk/finder/qualfinder/1Record%20of%20Assessment%20Book/AG20529.pdf)
# Assessment criteria

In order to pass this unit, learners must achieve all pass criteria. The pass criteria relate to the proficient demonstration of skills and knowledge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
<th>Assessment Criteria</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The learner must:</strong></td>
<td><strong>The learner can:</strong></td>
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| **LO1** Know the salon requirements for electrical epilation treatments | P1 Describe how to set up the work area  
| | P2 Describe how professional beauty therapists present themselves  
| | P3 Describe the salon requirements for record keeping  
| | P4 State the insurance and licensing requirements for the delivery of epilation treatments  
| | P5 Explain the legal requirements for providing treatments to minors |

| **LO2** Understand the effects of, and indications for, electrical epilation treatments | P6 Describe the contra-indications to electrical epilation treatments  
| | P7 Identify the areas specifically contra-indicated to electrical epilation  
| | P8 Describe the importance, purpose and methods of carrying out patch tests  
| | P9 Describe the types of hair and common causes of excessive hair growth  
| | P10 Explain the factors that influence electrical epilation treatments  
| | P11 Describe the different methods of electrical epilation systems and understand their benefits  
| | P12 Explain the use of tools, products and equipment used for electrical epilation  
| | P13 Explain the factors that influence current intensity  
| | P14 Explain the restrictions to treatment outcomes with electrical epilation  
| | P15 Explain how posture influences the treatment outcomes  
| | P16 Describe the consequences of incorrect probing techniques  
| | P17 Describe the possible contra-actions that may occur during or after an electrical epilation treatment  
| | P18 Explain how to effectively respond to contra-actions  
| | P19 Describe the benefits of using catophoresis to complete the treatment |

| **LO3** Understand the differences between methods of electrical epilation treatments | P20 Compare the different types of electrical epilation application techniques  
| | P21 Describe the benefits of electrical epilation compared to alternative methods of hair removal |

| **LO4** Be able to prepare for electrical epilation treatments | P22 Prepare and check the client, work area, equipment and products for treatment  
| | P23 Agree the service and check for contra-indications or restrictions to treatment  
| | P24 Explain the treatment procedure to the client  
| | P25 Ensure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is worn by yourself and the client  
| | P26 Instruct the client on how to prepare for an electrical epilation treatment |
| LO5 Be able to provide electrical epilation treatments | P27 Prepare the client’s skin for treatment |
| P28 Select the equipment to achieve the desired results |
| P29 Demonstrate epilation techniques, in line with the manufacturer’s instructions |
| P30 Provide aftercare |
| P31 Update and maintain treatment records |
| P32 Prepare the treatment area for the next treatment |
Assessment guidance

Assessors must use the amplified assessment guidance in this section to judge whether practical assessment criteria have been achieved.

**P22 Prepare and check the client, work area, equipment and products for treatment**

Learners must demonstrate that they have set up the treatment area in line with treatment and health and safety requirements. Magnifying lamps, epilation machines along with any extension leads are all tested, checked and confirmed to be in safe working order, prior to the treatment. All the required products for the treatment are to hand and are fully stocked in advance.

**P23 Agree the service and check for contra-indications or restrictions to treatment**

Learners must demonstrate that they have consulted with the client using appropriate questioning techniques, as well as conducting visual and manual checks for contra-indications. Learners must ascertain the client’s treatment expectations. Learners must correctly identify the client’s skin type with any treatment limiting characteristics during the consultation and recommend the most appropriate method for the epilation treatment. Any treatment preferences should also be discussed and agreed with the client.

**P24 Explain the treatment procedure to the client**

Learners must explain the treatment step by step to the client in full, confirming understanding using non-technical language the client can understand. At a minimum, the explanation should include the personal protective equipment provided to the client, how the epilation equipment works, the stages of hair growth and what effects should be expected after one treatment and a course of treatment. Treatment course duration, frequency and monetary commitments should also be explained to the client.

**P25 Ensure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is worn by yourself and the client**

Learners must demonstrate that they have worn the appropriate PPE during the epilation treatment. At a minimum the PPE for beauty therapists should include: gloves, aprons and, if close up face to face work is being performed, also a mask. Learners must demonstrate that they have offered to provide the client with PPE. The PPE offered to the client can include: eye shields for use under a magnifying lamp, modesty towels, and if required a mask.

**P26 Instruct the client on how to prepare for an electrical epilation treatment**

Learners must demonstrate that they have provided the client with instructions on how to prepare for the epilation treatment. Learners must demonstrate that they instructed the client as to what (if any) clothing or jewellery needs to be removed, with safe storage offered. The provision of modesty covering was arranged where required and advice and guidance was provided to the client on how to position themselves for safety and comfort and to facilitate the treatment.
P27 Prepare the client’s skin for treatment

Learners must demonstrate that they have prepared the area to be treated with the most appropriate products for the client’s skin type and the amount and type of make-up worn. A heavy make-up will require a thicker cleansing product such as a cream. A mild exfoliation product is useful on all skin types to remove the build up of dead skin cells. A client with extremely oily skin would have been offered a desincrustation treatment immediately prior to treatment. Clients with dry and dehydrated skin will have been given pre-treatment advice on intensive moisturising products to use or treatments to have.

P28 Select the equipment to achieve the desired results

Learners must demonstrate that they have chosen the correct products for the client’s skin type and characteristics, as well as the hair conditions to be treated. The client’s sensitivity levels and pain threshold will have been established to inform the learner to make the correct equipment and product choices. The learner will demonstrate the correct application method of electrical epilation in line with manufacturer’s instructions. A minimum level of proficiency for selection of the most appropriate equipment could be demonstrated by choosing the correct skin care. Choosing the correct needle size and type, ensuring the needle holder and foot pedal are working effectively when connected to the machine. Deciding which method of electrolysis to apply to the client to best suit the area being treated and the presenting factors established through consultation.

P29 Demonstrate epilation techniques, in line with manufacturers’ instructions

Learners must demonstrate that they have used a well-lit magnifying lamp to illuminate the area to be treated, correctly supported the area and stretched the surrounding tissue. Learners must demonstrate that the needle selected is the correct choice for the client and in line with the influencing factors that needed to be considered before treatment (such as sensitivity, hair type, method of electrolysis use, etc.). The needle must be used at the correct angle, direction and needle depth for the hair follicle and the area to be treated. Learners must adjust the intensity and duration of current flow to ensure effective hair release to suit client tolerance, sensitivity and safety. Learners must demonstrate smooth removal of the hair from the treated follicle without traction. Learners must demonstrate ability to work systematically to remove hair within the area(s) to be treated and the skin’s tolerance. Learners must dispose of removed hairs appropriately. Post-treatment, learners must demonstrate that they have soothed the area with appropriate techniques and products for the reaction presented.

P30 Provide aftercare

Learners must demonstrate that they have provided the client with a minimum of the following advice, in addition to any advice recommended by the manufacturer: Information on further treatment options, avoid touching the skin avoid exposure to UV or excessive heat avoid immediate application of make-up, use of SPF, Lifestyle activities that may need to be considered, advice on retail products to continue the beneficial effects of treatment, methods of dealing with re-growth between treatments.
### P31 Update and maintain treatment records

Learners must demonstrate that at the end of the service they complete the necessary records for their client. Products, tools and equipment used are recorded as well as any modifications, client preferences, any contra-actions that occur are noted and all records are stored securely.

### P32 Prepare the treatment area for the next treatment

Learners must demonstrate that they have prepared the treatment area by wiping down the trolley, couch, magnifying lamp and machinery. Removal and storage of products, machinery and non used consumables. Removal for laundering of used towels. Throwing away couch roll or used consumables. Securing and removal of the sharps box. Refreshing the consumables used and ensuring ease of set up for next therapist.
Resources

The special resources required for this unit are access to a real or realistic working environment which supports the provision of electrical epilation.

Delivery guidance

Teachers are encouraged to use innovative, practical and engaging delivery methods to enhance the learning experience. Learners may benefit from:

- Meaningful employer engagement so they relate what is being learned to the real world of work and understand commercial competency and product, tools and equipment usage of a variety of electrical epilation tools and equipment
- Work experience within a commercial beauty salon so they can practise to hone their skills in a real environment
- Using interactive information and technology, systems and hardware so they can learn about concepts and theories, research current trends, research product knowledge and produce visual aids for electrical epilation

Links with other units

This unit is closely linked with the following units:

UCO28M Health and safety in the salon
The health and safety unit will provide knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities for health and safety as defined by any specific legislation covering the role of the professional therapist. This unit greatly underpins all practical unit delivery. Learners will be required to apply their knowledge and understanding of health and safety when preparing for and providing epilation treatments in real or realistic working environment.

UBT90M Client care and consultation
Client consultation before all beauty treatments is actually a legal requirement and failure to consult properly with the client prior to treatment could invalidate beauty therapy insurance. It is essential that beauty therapists elicit information from clients about their medical history, including any allergies as well as checking for contra-indications. The client consultation unit underpins all technical units within this qualification and should be delivered prior to the delivery of any technical beauty therapy units.

UBT95M Anatomy and physiology for the face and body systems
Knowledge of the structure and function of the skin, as well as skin diseases and disorders most significantly underpins the knowledge and practical skills gained in this unit. Other elements of anatomy and physiology are also relevant to this unit in terms of understanding contra-indications to treatment as well as possible contra-actions.
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