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## Areola tattoos: What you should know

BELLEVUE – Breast cancer patients can experience physical and emotional scarring. Fortunately, there are services that can help restore a sense of normalcy.

Areola tattooing can provide breast cancer survivors with natural-looking areolas and nipples. The areola is the area of dark-colored skin on the breast that surrounds the nipple.

Areola tattoos are cosmetic procedures that enhance or alter the appearance of the nipple. This procedure creates a permanent image on the skin, much as conventional tattoos do. However, areola tattoos are particularly detailed in blending and feathering, making the result look extremely natural.

Women with faded or irregular areolas also may wish to explore areola tattoos.

Here's how it works:

Every areola tattoo is customized to the individual. A medical aesthetician will work with a client to design the desired look want.

During the consultation, the client's desired nipple size, placement and pigment colors will be discussed, as well as the client's skin type and scar patterns, if any, that may require more technical skill.

The time needed for the tattooing process depends on the complexity of the new areola design and the state of the breast.

Dressing is applied after the procedure to protect the tattoo. Clients will be given instructions from their medical aesthetician on how to take proper care of their tattoos.

There are three stages that take place after an areola tattooing session: healing, peeling and lightening. A typical healing time for an areola tattoo is 10 to 14 days. However, healing time will vary from person to person.

As with all tattoos, some fading will occur and may require touch-ups. At this point, a client may choose to have their colors refreshed.

While areola tattoos are an excellent resource for breast cancer survivors, they also are an option for anyone who wants to change the size or color of their nipples. This can help give clients the extra confidence boost to feel good in their own skin.

Consult with a medical aesthetician for more information about areola tattooing.

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## **About BayCare Clinic**

BayCare Clinic, <u>baycare.net</u>, is the largest physician-owned specialty-care clinic in northeastern Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. It is based in Green Bay, Wisconsin. BayCare Clinic offers expertise in more than 20 specialties, with more than 100 physicians serving in 16 area communities. BayCare Clinic is a joint partner in Aurora BayCare Medical Center, a 167-bed, full-service hospital. Follow BayCare Clinic on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.