

This guide is for barbers whose clients have or are considering scalp micropigmentation (SMP). It explains what SMP is, how it interacts with your work, and how to collaborate with SMP practitioners to deliver the best results for shared clients.

## WHAT IS SCALP MICROPIGMENTATION?

SMP is a cosmetic procedure that uses micro-needles to deposit pigment into the scalp, creating the appearance of natural hair follicles. It is not a tattoo — the pigment is deposited at a shallower depth, uses different pigments, and creates a different visual effect.

SMP creates the illusion of density. It works by mimicking the shadow of closely-cropped hair follicles. This means SMP results must integrate with whatever haircut the client wears.

## HOW SMP AFFECTS YOUR WORK

### Fade zones matter

The SMP practitioner maps density to match specific fade heights. If you change the fade height significantly, the SMP boundary may become visible.

### Guard recommendations

The client should carry a barber card (provided by their SMP clinic) specifying which guards to use in which zones.

### Healing windows

After each SMP session, the client needs 4-7 days before a haircut. After that, normal service resumes.

### Long-term maintenance

SMP fades gradually over 3-5 years. The client's barber is often the first person to notice when a touch-up is needed.

## WHEN TO RECOMMEND SMP TO A CLIENT

- Client is thinning but not ready for a full shave
- Client has a scar (FUT strip, injury) they want concealed
- Client wants a sharper hairline than their natural growth provides
- Client has alopecia patches they want blended
- Client maintains a buzz cut or skin fade and wants the illusion of density

Provided by KORT SMP Systems — [kort-academy.com](https://kort-academy.com)