Hazardous medication exposure can result in one or more of the following:

- Organ damage at low doses
- Chromosomal damage
- Structure and toxicity profile mimics existing medications determined to be hazardous
- Cancer
- Harm to fetus if pregnant

**What precautions should be used to minimize exposure risk and secondary contamination when handling hazardous medications?**

- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) according to exposure risk as defined in the [HML PPE Charts](#).

- Use appropriate protective equipment and devices (e.g., closed system transfer devices [CSTD], Luer-lock safety fittings).

- Limit points of contact as much as possible.

- Decontaminate work surfaces, equipment, and other non-disposable items after use, between patients, and whenever visible residue is present. Wipe once with bleach wipe, then twice with disinfectant wipe.

- Manage spills and respond to known or suspected exposure following [Safety SOP – Hazardous Material Spill and Exposure Management](#).

- Know the location of the Hazardous Medication Spill Kit in your area and follow the directions contained within the kit for spill management.

- Properly dispose of bulk waste and trace waste. Refer to [Safety SOP – Hazardous Waste Handling and Disposal](#) and the [Medication Waste Disposal Guide](#).

- Review and follow the policy for [Hazardous Medication Handling](#) along with the associated SOPs.

- Identify hazardous medications routinely used in your area by reviewing the [VUMC Hazardous Medication List (HML)](#) and noting storage area labeling, auxiliary labels on patient-specific doses, and MAR alerts.