

# Hazards

**Many nurses are not aware of the hazards they face in their work environment, nor of the control measures that their employers should employ to protect them.**

Use this simple tool to uncover hazards at work and see what your organization is doing to protect you.

## Biological

- › Tuberculosis
- › Hepatitis A, B, C
- › MRSA
- › Chicken pox and Measles
- › Influenza

## Chemical

- › Medications
- › Hand sanitizers
- › Disinfectant, cleaners and bleach
- › Ethylene oxide and Formaldehyde
- › Solvents and glues
- › Floor wax stripping agents
- › PVC / DEHP
- › Surgical plume

## Physical/mechanical

- › Radiation
- › Needles and other sharps
- › Ergonomic issues
- › Slips, trips and falls

## Psychosocial

- › Workplace violence and bullying
- › Shift work, lack of rest breaks and fatigue
- › Lack of healthy food choices
- › High patient acuity
- › Moral distress

# Workplace health and safety Hazards and control measures

Professional Nursing and Health Care Council  
Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Committee

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# Control measures

**Knowledge is power. WSNA wants you to be safe.**

This card contains a partial list of hazards and control measures.

What other hazards lurk in your facility?

What is your employer doing to protect you?

Less effective	More effective		
<b>Personal protective equipment</b>	<b>Administrative</b>	<b>Engineering</b>	<b>Elimination / substitution</b>
N-95 respirators	<b>Employee health</b> › Vaccinations › PPD testing	<b>Safety needles</b>  <b>Lifting devices</b>	Eliminate hazardous chemicals or substitute with safer alternatives
Non latex gloves	<b>Culture of safety</b>  <b>Mandatory training</b> › Bloodborne pathogens › Hazard communication › HazDrug protocol › Safe lifting › Disaster	<b>Surgical smoke evacuators</b>	
Goggles, face shields and liquid resistant gowns	<b>Health and safety committee</b>  <b>Safe staffing committee</b>		

 Explore the OSHA Hospital E-Tool at [www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital](http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/hospital)

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