Workers’ health and safety principles

Good occupational health and safety measures include the following points:

- Proper training
- Personal protective clothing and equipment
- Effective occupational health programme
  - immunization
  - post-exposure prophylaxis
  - medical surveillance
- Personal Hygiene
Personal hygiene

• Convenient washing facilities (with warm water and soap) should be available for personnel handling hazardous HCW

• Personnel should be trained on personal hygiene issues that reduce the risk from handling hazardous HCW
Protective clothing

- Helmets
- Respiratory face masks
- Eye protectors
- Overalls
- Industrial aprons
- Leg protectors
- Industrial boots
- Disposable gloves (medical staff) or
- Heavy duty gloves (waste workers)
Safe management practices

- Waste segregation
- Appropriate packaging of waste
- Waste identification
- Proper storage of waste
- Adequate transportation
Programme for response to injuries

- Immediate first aid measures
- Immediate reporting
- Identify source of injury
- Obtain additional medical care
- Maintain medical surveillance
- Blood tests if required
- Record the incident in full
- Investigate the causes and report
- Implement prevention measures for similar incidents
Cytotoxic safety

Special measures should be taken when using cytotoxic drugs:
• A specially assigned safety officer should supervise the safe management of these products and wastes
• Set up written procedures for handling products and waste
• Training of the staff about hazards, and handling and decontamination procedures
• Develop emergency programme for spills and accidents
Emergency response - principles

• Follow the waste management plan
• Clean contaminated areas and disinfect if necessary
• Limit exposure of workers
• Limit impact on:
  ‣ Patients
  ‣ Personnel
  ‣ Environment
Procedure for spillage cleaning

• Evacuate the area
• Decontaminate eyes and skin
• Inform designated person
• Determine nature of spill
• Provide first aid
• Secure area

• Protective clothing
• Limit the spill
• Neutralize or disinfect
• Collect the spill
• Decontaminate the area
• Rinse the area
• Seek medical care where necessary
Reporting incidents

All incidents including near misses must be notified as follows:

• Description of incident
• Where and when it occurred
• Which staff were involved
• Other relevant circumstances

A report should be made and records should be kept