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# Managing Workplace Safety & Health (WSH) Risks in a Facility Providing Animal Research Services

WEE Yong Hao, Valerie CHONG, Cindy GOH  
SGH Office of Safety Network and SingHealth IBC Office



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## What's the Concern?

Research activities involving animals, with potential bites and scratches, aerosols generation (e.g. sneezing), and handling different species of animals, presents safety and health hazards which are not common in a standard research laboratory, especially when the animals are inoculated with biological agents, drugs or radioactive materials as per individual researchers' project requirement.

## What Can be Done to Address the Concern?

A comprehensive workplace safety and health (WSH) risk assessment conducted by various stakeholders is needed to identify these unique hazards and address its associated risks.

## Conducting Risk Assessments



### Communication

Communication with all personnel to be established at each step of risk assessment. Everyone to be informed of the risks & the control measures available to manage those risks



### Record and Review

Approved RAs to be kept for 3 years by the facility owner and the respective Principal Investigators for their projects. Risk assessment to be reviewed regularly and to monitor effectiveness of the risk control measures



### Implementation

Seek approval from Workplace Manager / HOD for implementation of the respective risk control measures identified

### Hazards Identification

Engaging all relevant stakeholders, including external staff (researchers) who are conducting their experiments in the facilities to define the scope of the RA, list the work activities to be performed & identify the hazards associated with the work activities



### Risk Evaluation

Evaluate what are the potential risks and determine the appropriate risk control measures to mitigate the risks identified, with inputs from RA competent person from SingHealth IBC & Research Laboratory Safety Office



## What's the Result?

Hazards of all work activities, including research work by various research groups in the facility, are identified and effective risk control measures implemented to mitigate the risks, creating a safer and healthier work environment for personnel working in workplace.

## Conclusion

Thorough RA by different stakeholders is essential for the facility that provides services and rental space to external stakeholders, as it would identify hazards and risks which could affect the facility's operation. RA is also a documented information for safety communication to new staff, at the same time ensuring the continuity of smooth operations of the facility with staff safety as top priority.