Plenary: Answers

# Risk assessment errors

Some suggestions for information which is missing from the risk assessments, and what should be done to correct the risk assessments.

## Risk assessment 1 (for autoclaving)

* There is no date on which the risk assessment was carried out, and it does not give the date of the next review.
* There is no consequence severity of risk given for the infection or contamination. This would be dependent on the infectious agents being used in the lab but needs to be used to determine the total risk level and the residual risk level, as it may be higher than 3 and therefore further action (such as monitoring) might be necessary.
* There are no control measures for scalding from hot liquids. The control measures might be to:
  + Always wear a lab coat, goggles and heat resistant gloves when handling items in and out of the autoclave.
  + Keep sleeves tucked into gloves to stop steam going up your sleeves.

## Risk assessment 2 (for use, handling and storage of glassware)

* The date of the next review is prior to the date the risk assessment was carried out. This is not possible so there must be an error here.
* Who might be harmed is being described in the column, not given using the key above.
* There are no details about hazards from substances IN the glassware. This may be a conscious choice but it should be checked that there is an appropriate risk assessment which takes this into account.
* There is no information about how the glassware breaking during storage might cause harm. Details should be included, such as unknowing workers could cut themselves on the broken glass and the contents of the glassware could spill out causing further harm or contamination.
* There is no information about the risks or control measures associated with disposing of broken glassware. The likelihood should be 3 and consequence severity 3, so total risk level would be 9. Control measures could include:
  + The glassware should be disposed of correctly in a sharps bin.
  + Broken glass should be handled with care.
  + Wear PPE, including lab coat, goggles and gloves.
* After control measures are implemented, likelihood 2, consequence severity 1, so residual risk 2 (No action).
* It needs to specify which PPE is appropriate as a control measure for the breaking of glass during use or handling, such as lab coat, goggles and gloves.