

## **First Aid**

This document describes the risk assessment for first aid within the WIMM

## **Hazards**

In the event of an emergency involving working within the WIMM or equipment failure

- Broken glass
- Infectious agents
- Slips and trips
- Syringe needles/sharps
- Biological agents
- Phenol/chemicals
- Lasers
- Hot and cold burns

Those who might be harmed

- WIMM staff
- Students
- Collaborators
- Visitors
- Contractors

## **Written by**

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**WIMM Safety Officer**

## **Emergency telephone numbers**

**Malcolm Shepherd 07966360796**

**Manoj Sondhi 07980012145**

**Police (0)268000 or 9999**

**20107 John Radcliffe Security**

**0 JR switchboard and ask Security**

**Ambulance 9999**

**Fire 9999**

**Eye Hospital 01865 234800**

**Relevant University policy statement UPS S2/10**

**Relevant WIMM SOPs WIMM E021 and WIMM E031**

## Background

Research in the Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (WIMM) covers a wide range of work that can put people at risk in the event of an accident. The WIMM is located on the John Radcliffe Hospital site where the major accident and emergency department for the area is located. The nature of the research in the building means that there are GMC registered doctors working in the building together with nurses employed as research nurses. In addition to this the WIMM has 7 trained first aiders who hold a current first aid at work certificate from the St John Ambulance. These first aiders are members of WIMM staff who have volunteered to be trained and to be first aiders. They are usually based in the WIMM and work in different parts of the building meaning that there is likely to be someone close at hand in the event of an emergency. The majority are on longer term contracts rather than employed on grants.

Risk is minimised through training and awareness. By every laboratory hand wash basin there is a first aid kit, box of plasters, eye wash bottles and the WIMM Emergency Procedures notice. A further copy can be found on the WIMM Health and Safety noticeboard that is located in the lobby area at the side of Reception.

In the autoclave facility there are also first aid boxes to deal with severe burns. All phenol users are given a green phenol card that they have been instructed to take with them to Accident and Emergency in the event of a phenol burn.

The first aid boxes, boxes of plasters and eye wash bottles are inspected on a monthly basis unless an accident has been reported to WIMM administration that necessitated the use of an eye wash bottle or first aid kit. The first aid kits have a yellow security tag that allows easy identification as to their integrity. At the same time the Emergency procedures notices are checked.

Lone working is not encouraged. In the event of a member of staff needing to work on their own at an unusual time of day the member of staff is asked to obtain approval from his/her supervisor to carry out the task. They are encouraged to notify someone when they arrive safely in the WIMM, when they leave and when they arrive home safely if they live on their own. It is important that this "buddy" knows what to do in the event the "lone worker" fails to make contact.

It should be noted that the nature of the work carried out in the WIMM is changing. The risk of cuts due to the handling of glass has been greatly reduced due to the substitution of glass by plastic (serological pipettes and plastic tubes). The amount of phenol being used has been reduced by the substitution of non-phenol DNA extraction kits. Technology has moved on which means that DNA sequencing is now automated and so large glass gel plates are rarely used. The need for high voltage electrophoresis is now only occasionally needed. Much more of the work involves desk-based work.