

Handling Hazardous Medications

Level of Personal Protection Equipment Required

(See Stormont Vail Hazardous Drug List on SVNNet or in Epic for more details)

Minimum (Green) – Handling using normal precautions. (Single Glove—when handling intact tablet or capsules)	Moderate (Orange) – Handle at all times with double gloves, protective gown. Eye and/or Inhalation protection (if splash or inhalation potential) and appropriate engineering controls*.
Low (Yellow) – Handle at all times with double gloves, protective gown, and appropriate engineering controls*.	High (Red) – Double gloves, gown, eye and inhalation protection in addition to any necessary engineering controls*.

*An engineering control is a fume hood, Class 1 Biological Safety Cabinet (Hood) , a closed–system drug-transfer devices, or a closed pill crushing system such as the Silent Night pill crusher.

Examples:

Green—Risk of exposure is minimal. Intact tablets and capsules that are given to the patient without manipulation (tablet not crushed/cut or capsule opened)

Yellow—Risk of exposure is low. Giving ophthalmic solution, oral liquids, crushing, breaking, opening oral tablets/capsules, giving prefilled syringe or suppository. Splash or inhalation risk is low.

Orange—Risk of exposure is moderate. Drawing medication from a vial at bedside prior to administration, intravenous, subcutaneous, or intramuscular injections medication where risk of splash or inhalation is elevated.

Red—Risk of exposure is high. High splash risk, inhalation risk. Medication from ampule, bladder irrigation, or cleaning up spills or excreted body fluids of patient that has received a hazardous medication.