# Hierarchy of control of hazards

An expert approach to controlling hazards in healthcare settings follows a discernible hierarchy, prioritizing measures for maximum effectiveness:

* **Avoidance: Elimination**
  + The most effective strategy is to eliminate the hazard entirely or avoid the risk.
* Minimisation: Substitution
  + Replace one thing with another to reduce risk (e.g. improved equipment.
* **Engineering and Containment Controls**:
  + modifying the work environment or process to reduce exposure to the hazard. Key examples include:
    - **Microbiological Safety Cabinets (MSCs)**:
    - **Ventilation Systems**:
    - **Water System Design**:
* **Administrative Controls**:
  + These are policies, procedures, and training that limit exposure.
    - **Risk Assessment**: A systematic process to identify hazards, assess risks, and determine necessary precautions, which is a legal requirement under COSHH Regulations.
    - **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Policies**:
    - **Training and Competency**:
    - **Surveillance and Monitoring**:
    - **Notification**:
* **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**:
  + **Hand Hygiene**
  + **Gloves**:
  + **Face Masks, Eye Protection**
  + **Aprons, and Gowns.**
  + **Footwear**: Enclosed and protective footwear is recommended, especially in areas where sharps or blood may be spilled.