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Infection Prevention and Control Reflection #3.

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Healthcare workers are exposed to multiple hazardous products every day, such as disinfectants, cleaning chemicals, medications, and bodily fluids. Having a good understanding of WHMIS helps healthcare workers recognize these hazards, follow safe handling procedures, and know what to do if an exposure or spill occurs. I think this knowledge is important because it protects not only the healthcare worker but also patients, coworkers, and visitors. A safe healthcare environment depends on everyone understanding how to use hazardous materials responsibly. As someone preparing for a career in healthcare, I understand that knowing how to read labels, use Safety Data Sheets, and wear the correct personal protective equipment is part of providing safe, high-quality care. This reflection has shown me that WHMIS is more than a workplace requirement—it is a responsibility that helps keep everyone safe.

The Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is an important part of maintaining safety in a medical imaging department. Hazardous materials, such as contrast media, cleaning chemicals, and other potentially dangerous substances, are classified based on the hazards they present, including whether they are flammable, toxic, or corrosive. This classification helps staff quickly recognize the risks and take the appropriate safety precautions. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) provide detailed information about each hazardous product, including how to safely handle, store, use, and dispose of it, as well as the proper response in the event of a spill or accidental exposure. In addition, labels on containers provide clear warnings and handling instructions to help prevent accidents and the misuse of hazardous materials. WHMIS training ensures that all medical imaging staff understand how to interpret labels and SDS, recognize workplace hazards, and follow safe work practices. This knowledge helps staff use personal protective equipment (PPE) correctly, respond appropriately to emergencies, and maintain a safe environment for both patients and healthcare workers.