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**SSERC Risk Assessment** (revised version March 2018)

(based on HSE’s INDG 163 ‘Risk assessment - A brief guide to controlling risks in the workplace’)

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| Activity assessed | Extraction of Paracetamol from tablets |
| *Date of assessment* | December 2024 |
| *Date of review (****Step 5****)* |  |
| *School* |  |
| *Department* |  |

| Step 1 | Step 2 | Step 3 | Step 4 | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *List Significant hazards here:* | *Who might be harmed and how?* | *What are you already doing?*  *What further action is needed?* | *Actions* | | |
| *by whom?* | *Due date* | *Done* |
| Propanone is highly flammable and an eye and respiratory irritant | Technician, teacher or learner handling propanone by splashes or breathing fumes. | Keep away from any sources of ignition.  Work in a well-ventilated laboratory  Wear eye protection. |  |  |  |
| Paracetamol is harmful if swallowed in moderately large quantities | Technician, teacher or learner by ingestion | There is not enough paracetamol for this to happen accidentally.  Teacher/technician should monitor the tablets and only issue enough for the activity. |  |  |  |

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| **Description of activity:**  Paracetamol tablets are dissolved/softened in hot propanone and then filtered to remove insoluble impurities.  The propanone is then evaporated to remove the propanone.  The impure paracetamol can be recrystallised from cold water. |

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| **Additional comments:** |