As lead unit dose containers (pigs) are reused by the radiopharmaceutical companies, there may be a hazard from bloodborne pathogens and radioactive contamination to nuclear medicine technologists and to radiopharmaceutical staff. The purpose of this study was to determine the current level of risk from these potential hazards.

Using a phenolphthalein presumptive blood test kit, 75 container samples were tested for blood contamination. The outside of the pigs were wiped two times, while the inside of the pig was wiped one time. Using a well counter, 25 samples were wiped from the outside of the lead pigs after dose administration to test for radioactive contamination.

None of the 75 samples tested for blood contamination exhibited a positive outcome for blood. One of the 25 samples tested for radioactive contamination was found contaminated (4%).

The risk of blood or radioactive contamination from reuse of lead unit dose containers is low.