HTM 02-01 (2026)

Significant changes and pharmacy responsibilities

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Health Technical Memorandum HTM 02-01

Safe and reliable medical gas supply for patient care

The official guidance for the design, installation, operational management and governance of medical gases in healthcare premises in England, covering the full system lifecycle.

Part A: Design, installation, validation and verification

Covers the technical standards, pipeline layout, equipment siting and commissioning/testing process for new installations or refurbishments.

Part B: operational management

Focuses on the safe day-to-day operation and maintenance, with clear roles and responsibilities.

Core safety principles

Adequacy of supply, identity of the gas, continuity of supply and gas quality.

I loved HTM 02-01 (2006) What's new?

Post-COVID HSSIB recommendations for piped oxygen

Strengthened governance
Informed design

Roles and Responsibilities strengthened

Chief Pharmacist
DCO – routine work and PTW
AP/AE

Sustainability and nitrous oxide

Transition from piped nitrous oxide to point-of-use cylinders by end 2026/27
Occupational exposure management

AI-generated illustration

Strengthened governance model: Medical Gas Safety Group

- Assurance group for all aspects relating to medical gases:
  - design and installation, QC, operational policy and management, H&S, training, and competency assessment.
- Part of the organisation's governance structure with function to report to the Board.
- Chaired by Chief Pharmacist (or Senior Operational Manager)
  - MDT: clinical and engineering colleagues.

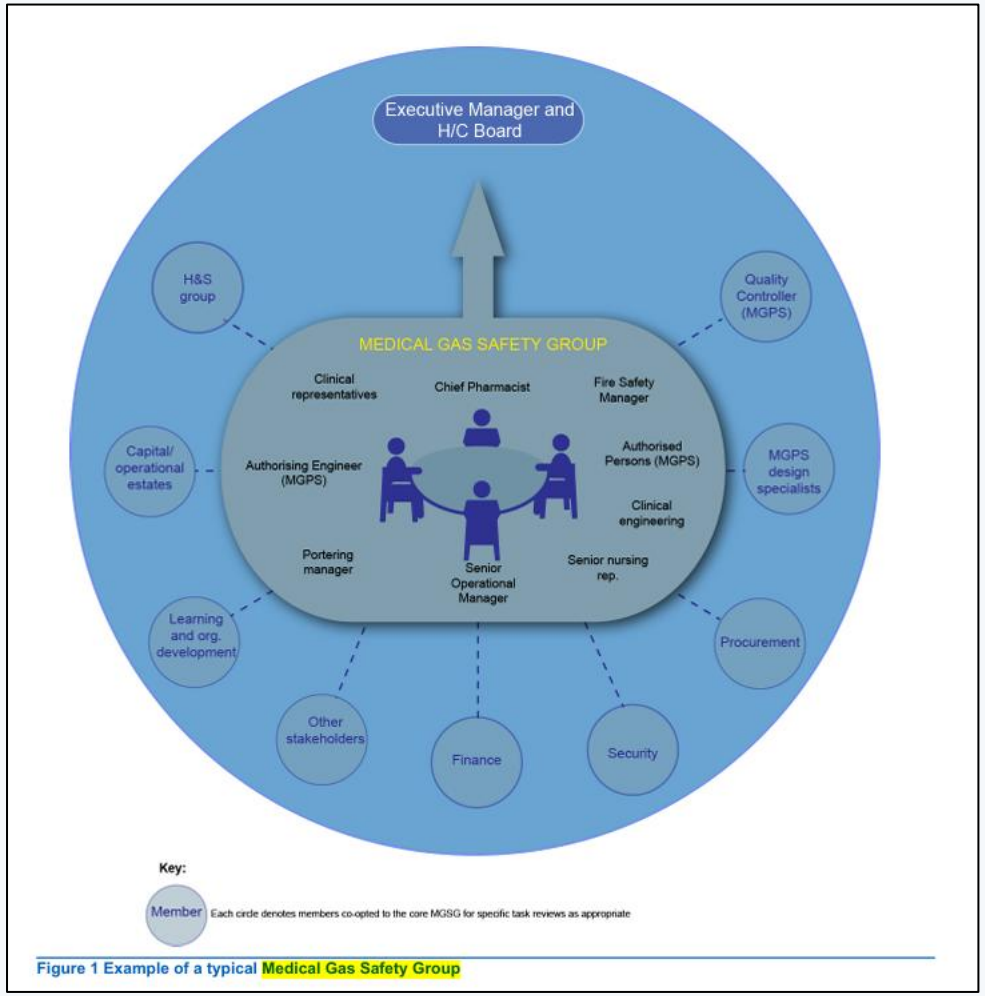


Figure 1 Example of a typical Medical Gas Safety Group

AI-generated illustration

Cylinder management: What does HTM 02-01 (2006) say?

Safe storage, handling and use of medical gas cylinders

S

STORE SAFELY

- Dedicated, secure and well-ventilated areas
- Separate medical from industrial/pathology gases
- Segregate full and empty cylinders; minimise ward stock

H

HANDLE CORRECTLY

- Only trained staff should move or connect cylinders
- Use suitable trolleys and restraints; never drop or roll cylinders
- Keep valves and connections clean and free from oil or grease

C

CHECK BEFORE USE

- Confirm gas identity, label, valve and correct equipment
- Inspect seals and connections; use no lubricants or jointing compounds
- Open valves slowly, check for leaks and withdraw defects from use

R

CONTROL STOCK

- Order, receive, issue and return through defined procedures
- Rotate stock and monitor cylinder status and expiry/refill dates
- Maintain emergency reserve supplies and local records

Medical gases are medicines and, as such, it is recommended that, regardless of operational infrastructure. Take an active role

Chief Pharmacist: explicit responsibilities

Pharmaceutical quality and cylinders

- Ensure gas quality complies with British Pharmacopoeia monographs or product licenses – in line with responsibilities for all other medicines
- Procure medical gases through pharmacy as medicines
- Ensure cylinder stock control: location, quantity, gas type, adequacy of supply
- Ensure annual cylinder stock check and safety audit, with actions completed.

First explicit recognition of QC activities within HTM 02-01

- Appoint the Quality Controller (MGPS) in writing and verify registration, competence and experience
- Review quarterly QC results; review and retain QC test certificates.

Chief Pharmacist: explicit responsibilities

Governance and system leadership

- Lead the governance – Chair the MGSG
  - Understand the MGPS system, including emergency plans
  - Co-produce the operational policy with APs then implement and monitor through MGSG.
  - Ensure all activities of MGSG are completed appropriately
    - New training requirements

- Ensure Workplace exposure monitoring for nitrous oxide is completed

Competence, training and records

Designation	Responsibilities	Course	Refresher training/ reassessment
Designated Person	The integrity and governance of the MGPS	Medical Gases for Healthcare Managers	3 years
Senior Operational Manager	System management and leadership	Medical Gases for Healthcare Managers	3 years
Chief Pharmacist	Overall control of medical gas administration	Medical Gases for Service Managers	3 years
Authorising Engineer	Appointment and overseeing Authorised Person (AP)	AP Comprehensive then AP Refreshers (MGPS)	5 years
Authorised Person (AP)	MGPS operational lead, high and low-hazard works	AP Comprehensive then AP Refreshers (MGPS)	3 years
Low Hazard Authorised Person	MGPS operational, low-hazard PPM works only	Low Hazard AP (MGPS)	1 year
Competent Person (CP)	Installation and PPM	CP Maintenance and/or CP Installation (MGPS)	3 years
Competent Person (minor works)	Source equipment, plant room checks and terminal unit repairs	CP Minor Works (MGPS)	1 year
Designated Clinical Officer	Department lead, MGPS emergency actions and PTW permissions	Designated Clinical Officer (MGPS)	3 years
Quality Controller	System quality assurance	QC Medical Gas Testing then QC Medical Gas Testing Refresher	5 years
Clinical staff	Anyone using medical gases or cylinders	Medical Gas Safety – Clinical Staff	1 year
Portering team	Cylinder transport, connection and stock control	Medical Gas Safety – Portering	1 year
Project Manager	Manage projects which include MGPS	AP Comprehensive then AP Refreshers (MGPS)	3 years

Table 3 Training and reassessment schedule for personnel working with medical gas systems



AI-generated illustration

Questions

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