



HTM02-01 Design Consulting Specialist in HTM02-01 Design.

+66(0)63 082 9692

kevin@htm02-01designconsult.com

How to Scope Medical Gas Design Assurance for Large-Scale Projects

A Guide for Project Directors and Estates Managers on Mitigating Systemic Risk, Avoiding Costly Rework, and Ensuring HTM 02-01 Compliance from Day One.

Introduction: The Billion-Pound Gamble

You are overseeing the construction of a new hospital wing, a specialist treatment centre, or an entire multi-storey facility. The budget is set, the timeline is tight, and the margin for error is zero.

Yet, a single, often overlooked aspect of the MEP design has the potential to bring your project to a grinding halt: the medical gas pipeline system (MGPS).

In the drive for value engineering, the fundamental engineering step of **formal pressure loss analysis and design assurance is frequently sidelined**. The assumption is that any issues will be caught during final verification.

This is a catastrophic and expensive fallacy.

This whitepaper outlines a proven, strategic framework for scoping Medical Gas Design Assurance, transforming it from an afterthought into a core project pillar that protects your budget, your timeline, and ultimately, patient safety.

Chapter 1: Why Standard Approaches Fail on Large-Scale Projects

The "design, bid, build, and hope" model is inadequate for complex healthcare facilities. Here's why:

1. **The Complexity Multiplier:** A 50-bed extension is simple. A 500-bed hospital is an interconnected web of pipelines. A fault in one riser can affect pressure across multiple floors and wings. Manual checks cannot reliably model this complexity.
2. **The "Copy-Paste" Error:** Designs from smaller projects are often scaled up without rigorous re-calculation, leading to systemic under sizing.
3. **The Change Order Domino Effect:** A simple client request to add two ICU outlets can have unforeseen consequences on the entire system's performance—consequences that are impossible to gauge without sophisticated modelling.



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4. **The Verification Catastrophe:** Discovering a design flaw *during* the final verification test is the worst-case scenario. It results in:
- **Project Delays:** Weeks or months of lost time.
 - **Six-Figure Rework:** Ripping out walls and ceilings to replace entire pipe runs.
 - **Contractual Disputes:** Costly claims and legal battles between client, contractor, and designer.
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Chapter 2: The Three-Tiered Framework for Design Assurance

A one-size-fits-all audit is not enough. For large-scale projects, you need a scoped, phased approach.

Tier 1: The Project Health Check (The Strategic Overview)

- **Ideal For:** Early design stages, tender evaluation, or high-level risk assessment.
- **Scope:** A review of the core system architecture: main plant, primary risers, and critical care areas (ICUs, Theatres).
- **Outcome:** A high-level report identifying the 3-5 most significant systemic risks that could jeopardise the project. This provides the strategic justification for deeper investment.
- **Key Question it Answers:** "Are there any fundamental, show-stopping flaws in the base design?"

Tier 2: The Comprehensive System Audit (The Gold Standard)

- **Ideal For:** The core design phase, before construction begins.
- **Scope:** A full, system-wide pressure loss analysis and compliance review against HTM 02-01 of the entire pipeline network.
- **Outcome:** A complete set of certified calculation reports, providing a "Digital Twin" of the system's performance. This is your mathematical proof of compliance, ready for the verifier.
- **Key Question it Answers:** "Can we prove, with data, that this entire system will pass verification?"

Tier 3: The Ongoing Design Partnership (The Ultimate De-Risking)



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- **Ideal For:** Mega-projects (£100M+), fast-track programmes, or projects with a high degree of design volatility.
- **Scope:** Embedding a design assurance partner to review every change order, every "what-if" scenario, and every sub-contractor submission throughout the project lifecycle.
- **Outcome:** Continuous compliance and the ability to respond to design changes with agility and certainty, eliminating verification risk.
- **Key Question it Answers:** "How do we ensure that every decision, from today until handover, is mathematically sound and compliant?"

Chapter 3: A Practical Scoping Checklist

Use this checklist to define the level of assurance your project requires.

Your Project Profile	Recommended Tier	Key Considerations
< 50 Beds / Small Renovation	Tier 1 (Health Check)	Focus on critical areas. A full audit may be disproportionate.
50 - 300 Beds / New Wing	Tier 2 (System Audit)	The sweet spot for full assurance. Non-negotiable for project de-risking.
300+ Beds / New Build Hospital	Tier 3 (Design Partnership)	The complexity demands ongoing oversight. The cost is a small fraction of the risk.
Project has a history of design changes	Tier 3	Change is the biggest risk. You need a partner, not a one-off audit.
Uncertain about design quality	Start with Tier 1	Use the Health Check to diagnose the scale of the problem before committing to a full audit.

Conclusion: Assurance is Not a Cost—It's Your Smartest Investment



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On a large-scale project, the question is not *"Can we afford a Design Assurance service?"*

The real question is *"Can we afford the £500,000+ in rework, delays, and reputational damage if we don't?"*

By formally scoping and integrating Medical Gas Design Assurance from the outset, you move from being a passive stakeholder to an active risk manager. You replace hope with certainty, and chance with engineering.

Your Next Step: From Theory to Practice

This whitepaper has outlined the framework. The next step is to apply it to your specific project.

Book a complimentary, 30-minute Scoping Session with our experts. We will review your project's specifics and help you define the right level of assurance to protect your investment.

Footer:

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Specialists in Medical Gas Design Assurance & HTM 02-01 Compliance