



## QI Risk. Independent, qualified assessment of medical gas supply and operational processes.



### Putting quality and safety to the test

Managing medical gas supply demands control and coordination throughout the healthcare facility to ensure the highest standards of safety, reliability and efficiency. International and National Standards require regular risk assessments; the classification of medical gases as pharmaceutical products places new demands on the hospital and staff to meet quality regulations. Lack of compliance in the hospital's own medical gas manufacturing, distribution, storage and usage policy could potentially have serious implications for your facility.

The QI Risk service covers both an in-depth audit of the premises, studying the healthcare facility's own operational procedures and staff training status, as well as an assessment of the risks identified.

The normal time needed for an audit depends on the size and complexity of the healthcare institution but the on-site visit is normally at least a week.

### Audit of the gas delivery system

Independent specialist engineers conduct an in-depth inspection of the complete gas supply system in the healthcare facility – in accordance with internationally accepted best practice, International Standards and respective country-specific regulations. Our engineers survey equipment type and status and conduct interviews with your staff to ensure adherence with regulatory guidelines, standard operating procedures and best practice.

The audit includes identification of potential risks and shortcomings in some of the following areas:

- Plant capacity and condition.
- Distribution systems.
- Emergency preparedness.
- Manual handling.
- Management systems and documentation; effectiveness of preventive maintenance.
- Training needs analysis.
- Cylinder storage and signage.
- Level of patient risk.
- Provision of equipment and emergency backup.

### Documentation of findings

The audit findings are presented in a detailed report by Linde Healthcare. However, simply identifying the risks present is not enough. All risks must be assessed, prioritised, and incorporated into the hospital risk register. Using over 50 years' global experience in supplying medical gases, the QI Risk service provides a qualified, impartial and pragmatic risk assessment of your systems by using our own Linde database to ensure consistency.

Identified risks are grouped according to the level of hazard and potential consequences. Recommendations are then given for safety improvements, risk management and compliance to standards.

Based on findings, extended support can include establishing an operational policy, maintenance and cylinder storage specifications, and contingency planning.

### Establishing policy

Both International Standards for managing medical gases and national regulations for control of pharmaceutical quality products require development of a hospital-specific "operational policy" based on a comprehensive compliance survey. This policy, or "Operational Management Document", should detail best practice procedures, cover emergency situations, and ensure clear information distribution and management control.

Linde Healthcare can provide professional assistance and advice in the creation of an effective operational policy for your hospital facility.

### Throughout the care continuum

With highly skilled and helpful Linde Healthcare staff, the QI Services portfolio stretches across the medical gas chain and offers solutions for on-site medical gas manufacturing and medical device management services. On completion of your hospital audit and risk assessment, we also offer further support, including consultancy, training, automatic monitoring of gas supply, maintenance, engineering, infrastructure management tools, point analysis, operational support and overall facilities management.

#### Linde AG

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