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Australasian Health Facility Guidelines

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07 MEDICAL GASES

07.01 Scope

The following Medical gas services should be considered in the Design Brief:

- medical breathing air storage and reticulation;
- medical breathing air compression and conditioning;
- medical suction pumping storage and reticulation;
- nitrous oxide storage and reticulation; and
- oxygen storage and reticulation.

In addition the following gas services may be included:

- carbon dioxide systems;
- dental compressed air and suction;
- industrial and instrument compressed air systems;
- laboratory special gas supplies;
- mortuary equipment; and
- nitrogen systems.

07.02 General

The cost of Medical Gas services is directly proportional to the number of outlet points. For this reason the development of the briefing document in the form of the Room Data sheets should be carefully monitored. [Refer to HFG Standard Components - Room Data Sheets].

The scope and detailed definition of medical gases should be determined and included in the Design Brief. Some early detailed decisions are required; one of these would be the choice between central vacuum and venturi systems for suction.

07.03 Design

The spatial requirements for medical gases and plant may often be low but consideration should be given to the effect of the building layout on the distribution or replication of plant.

In the early design stages an assessment of plant distribution and plant room areas should be made and incorporated into preliminary planning for the building.

Both plant and storage for each service should be centralised and reticulation provided throughout the facility from this central source. Plant and storage are subject to regulation which may dictate area, construction and location e.g. bulk oxygen storage.