



# ISHE

INDIANA SOCIETY FOR  
HEALTHCARE ENGINEERING



# ISHE Issues

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In this Issue:  
Regulatory Immunity



*World-class compliance for  
the changing world of healthcare.*

## **REGULATORY IMMUNITY**

Helping Hospitals Achieve Joint Commission Compliance.



Patients come to hospitals to be healed and cured. It goes without saying that they expect to be kept safe while they're there. A critical lynchpin to this safety and security is the consistent, dedicated monitoring and testing of a healthcare facility's medical gas systems. At every point, an incident could conceivably occur—from source equipment to patient rooms.

Because of this, medical gas systems are a point of emphasis by the Joint Commission (JC), among other objective Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS). Past hazards and incidents have warranted this increased level of scrutiny. Without clean, contaminant-free medical gases, operational alarm panels and maintained functional source equipment, even the most prudent healthcare facilities may find themselves in violation of code compliance. Or worse, in a situation where the safety of patients is in the balance. Traditional testing, with its reams of paper, has proved insufficient. It's a slow, tedious process rife with potential for mistakes and inconsistency. Uncorrected deficiencies or weak program documentation may result in reduced scoring, which in turn leads to loss of funding until the program is brought up to code. This can be a time-consuming, costly process, threatening the very operational core of the entire organization.

Compliant Healthcare Technologies, LLC (CHT), is a trusted industry partner to hospitals nationwide. We are involved in multiple Joint Commission surveys annually. We have forged a national presence, which serves as a vital pipeline for critical feedback on a daily basis about precisely what's happening in the field, and in our industry. We are uniquely qualified to provide you with a smarter, easier and more manageable method of monitoring and testing your medical gas system documentation. And it is for these reasons that we can offer you a rock-solid path—both simple and affordable—to Joint Commission Compliance.

**In other words, what you're holding is the first step towards Regulatory Immunity for your healthcare facility.**

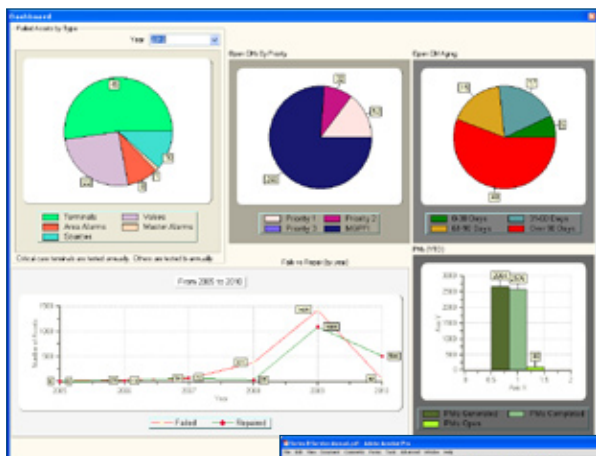
# A New Evolution of Knowledge.

CHT developed comprehensive, proprietary software, which takes the manual compliance monitoring and reporting to a vastly higher level of precision. Working in conjunction with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, Ohio, the CHxprogram was developed, tested, implemented and continues to evolve.

While physical man hours still verify the medical gas systems and correct deficiencies, the program allows on-site access, input and viewing of testing results and history for all medical gas system assets, from patient terminals to source equipment. The program contains an asset tree, making it simple to trace all medical gas assets while providing an Environment of Care (EC) Tracer program for JC compliance. That means, with mouse-click ease, a user can ascertain the source equipment linked to a zone, floor, even a specific room, anywhere within the facility, in an instant.

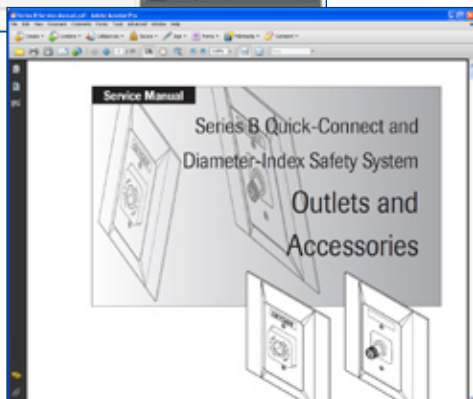
Traditional tracking of medical gas assets were defined by manual paper reports. The CHxprogram's asset management module enables virtual reporting of all assets, testing history and associated deficiencies and corrections. One can drill down through four levels of information, sorting to individual zones and its assets. Vibrant graphs and charts represent how a facility's program is evolving and improving, and makes every aspect of managing the medical gas system easy.

The precision and sophistication of the CHxprogram is unparalleled in our industry, and now trusted by numerous hospital facilities and health care systems around the country.



Dashboard monitoring asset corrective actions and work orders opened and closed

Asset Management Tree for E.C. Tracer and looking at assets



Owners manual or other documentation - can include verifications or pipe diagrams

Module/Component	Type	Asset	Status	Priority	Location	Asset	Date	Comments
Area For ETC SMART TEST	RG	REG-000000	OK	High	REG-000000	REG-000000	11/11/10	
Area For ETC SMART TEST	RG	REG-000000	OK	High	REG-000000	REG-000000	11/11/10	
Area For ETC SMART TEST	RG	REG-000000	OK	High	REG-000000	REG-000000	11/11/10	

Sample of one of several customizable reports available through our flexible reports module

## Two Critical, Integrated Steps.

Proper, provable testing and maintenance are crucial elements for achieving Joint Commission compliance.

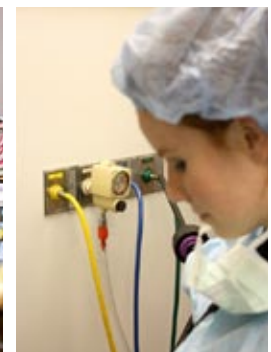
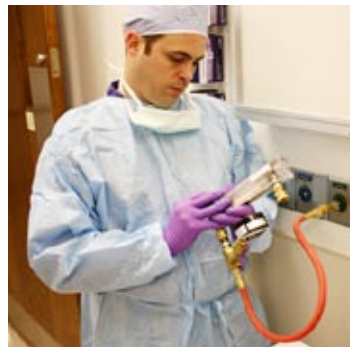
Once a traditional test was completed, a healthcare facility's weaknesses or inconsistencies would be identified and captured in a paper report. Work orders would then be manually generated.

Compare that to CHxprogram's method for generating work orders. It can be done daily, weekly, monthly, semi-annually, annually or periodically as determined by the facility and ASSE Qualification Standards. This enables the healthcare facility to continually build and manage their medical gas program, while creating a clear Plan for Improvement (PFI).

Pulling stacks of binders was the standard method when showing compliance for a medical gas systems program. One can see how this paper-based process is an invitation for inefficiency, lost time and potential error. Nowhere is this truer than in multi-site healthcare systems, with facilities spread across a city or even a wide geographic region.

The innovative CHxprogram transcends all this by allowing for the creation of multi-site databases. User-friendly applications and the ability to retrieve all relevant data from a single location simplify this process. Each facility is given its own, secure password, yet the director or corporate manager has a 360° view of all facilities (based on administrative rights granted). This feature has proven very useful during the budget cycle, or when facilities utilize one JC license.

This spectrum of choice, adaptability and operational ease is why numerous hospital facilities now trust CHT to service their medical gas system programs, whether paper-based or with the online simplicity of CHxprogram.



## Security Before, During and After Verification.

Training and certification are the simplest routes to confidence across a healthcare system's medical gas system. Our industry today demands professional credentials to ensure the efficacy for contractors, verifiers or in-house staff.

Options for certification through classes and seminars include:

- ASSE 6005-Medical Gas Systems General Information (for Architects & Engineers)
- ASSE 6010-for Medical Gas Systems Installers (and Brazers)
- ASSE 6020-for Inspectors
- ASSE 6030-for Verifiers
- ASSE 6040-for Maintenance Personnel
- ASME IX-Medical Gas Brazing

These will not only help with continued maintenance and verifications of medical gas systems, but also with initial proper design and installation of new medical gas system projects. Being able to identify design errors and educate installers on proper documentation and required testing, prior to installation and before calling the verifier, is key.

CHT holds a variety of medical gas system training seminars each year, conducted by our certified staff. CHT staff completed over 500 hours of training for safety and medical gas in 2009 alone. There is simply no better source for ensuring the training and certification elements of Regulatory Immunity are being met—and surpassed.

## In Summary

Every hospital or healthcare system wants to ensure patient safety. One aspect of this is achieved through the proper design, installation, verification and maintenance of the facility's medical gas systems. Inspections and compliance now warrant a higher level of visibility and knowledge in these systems. Only through achieving Regulatory Immunity can you feel secure that you are both keeping patients safe and keeping your organization free of the time-consuming and costly realities of coming up short during a planned or surprise inspection.

And while technology like the innovative CHxprogram is an intrinsic part of assuring Regulatory Immunity, CHT offers much more than that. You'll get a certified, dedicated team of experts who will work with you as a partner, propelling you toward becoming a world-class leader in healthcare.

To learn more about how CHT's expertise and experience can help deliver true Regulatory Immunity to your facility, please contact us at 800-438-1152.



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