Pwyllgor Iechyd a Diogelwch/ Health and Safety Committee

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: **DATE OF MEETING:**	**03 NOVEMBER 2026**
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: **TITLE OF REPORT:**	Medical Gas Piped Systems Safety Assurance Report
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: **LEAD DIRECTOR:**	James Severs, Executive Director of Allied Health Professions and Health Science
SWYDDOG ADRODD: **REPORTING OFFICER:**	Simon Day, Head of Maintenance and Engineering

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas) **Purpose of the Report** (select as appropriate)
Er Sicrwydd/ For Assurance

ADRODDIAD SCAA
SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

The purpose of this report is to provide assurance to the Health & Safety Committee regarding the compliance, governance, operational performance, and risk position of the Health Board's Medical Gas Piped Systems (MGPS). Information within this report has been reviewed through the Medical Gas Piped Systems Safety Group and reflects the current status of MGPS infrastructure, maintenance activities, governance arrangements, and identified risks across the Health Board.

Cefndir / Background

Medical Gas Piped Systems are critical healthcare engineering systems that support the provision of oxygen, medical air, vacuum and other specialist gases required for patient care. Effective management of these systems is supported through the Medical Gas Piped Systems Safety Group, which meets regularly in accordance with Welsh Health Technical Memorandum (WHTM) requirements and maintains oversight of operational, maintenance, compliance and risk management arrangements.

The Group remains well attended, consistently achieves quorum and is supported by several subsidiary working groups that address operational issues between formal Safety Group meetings. A robust Authorised Person (AP) and Competent Person (CP) structure is established across the Health Board, supported by Authorising Engineer (AE) assessments and periodic audits.

Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) programmes remain established and monitored through the Computer Aided Facilities Management (CAFM) system. Annual statutory funding continues to support necessary compliance works, minor upgrades and responses to audit findings, insurance inspections and regulatory requirements. Audit and assurance activities are undertaken through NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) Specialist Estates Services together with bi-annual Authorising Engineer reviews.

Asesiad / Assessment

Overall, the Medical Gas Piped Systems Safety Group provides reasonable assurance that governance, statutory inspection, maintenance and compliance monitoring arrangements are operating effectively across the Health Board. The latest performance data demonstrates strong planned maintenance and Oxygen Vacuum Insulated Evaporator (VIE) maintenance delivery, while identifying a shortfall in repairs and replacement completion that remains under active management. No matters require escalation through the Alert process and no MGPS risk currently requires escalation to the Health & Safety Committee.
However, the repairs and replacement backlog, together with strategic infrastructure challenges, requires continued monitoring, recovery action and future investment planning.

Refer to appendix 1 for the Metrics – Data up to August 2026.

Performance Metrics and Assurance

Alert (Escalation Required)

• MGPS repairs and replacements were completed at 90% (18 of 20), below the 95% target. Outstanding works are reviewed weekly, with safety-critical defects prioritised.

Recovery plan to achieve >95% completion. Continued monitoring through Estates OMT and escalation of any resource constraints.

Advise (Emerging Concerns)

Ongoing management of five MGPS-related risks.

Monthly review of risk scores, mitigation actions and assurance evidence.

Assure (Areas of Confidence)

The latest MGPS compliance return provides the following quantitative assurance:

• MGPS PPM completion was 98% (384 of 391), exceeding the 95% target and providing positive assurance regarding routine statutory and technical maintenance delivery.

• Oxygen VIE PPM completion was 97% (106 of 109), exceeding the 95% target; scheduled BOC VIE maintenance was also completed as required.

• Insurance inspections for VIE and MGPS plant were compliant, and external MGPS maintenance was completed to schedule.

• Training and competency compliance remained satisfactory to the Authorising Engineer.

• No internal or external medical gas incidents were reported during the period.

• Five MGPS risks remained active and subject to monthly review and mitigation through established governance arrangements.

Taken together, the metrics provide reasonable assurance: core maintenance, statutory inspection, external servicing, competency and incident controls remain effective, with focused recovery required for repairs and replacements.

Areas Requiring Monitoring

Ageing Infrastructure

Medical Gas Piped Systems infrastructure across the Health Board requires progressive modernisation. There is an increasing risk of terminal failure at ward level due to equipment obsolescence. Future capital investment programmes will be required to facilitate replacement programmes on a ward-by-ward basis. The majority of pipework infrastructure remains original installation, except where specific upgrade programmes have already been completed.

End of Life Plant

A number of critical plant assets across Health Board sites are approaching or have reached end of life. This includes oxygen systems, medical air plant, vacuum systems and various Entonox manifold installations. Whilst these have been identified through backlog management processes, competing capital priorities and limited funding continue to affect replacement timescales.

Single Points of Failure

Certain sites continue to contain identified single points of failure within MGPS infrastructure. Authorised Persons have prioritised resilience improvement works and opportunities to undertake mitigation works will be pursued through future capital programmes, discretionary capital funding and any available year-end resources.

Nitrous Oxide Infrastructure

The Health Board continues to await clinical decisions regarding the future requirement for nitrous oxide distribution systems. This matter remains under review through both the MGPS Safety Group and Cylinder Management Groups.

Assurance Position

The Medical Gas Piped Systems Safety Group provides assurance that:
Governance arrangements are operating effectively and meetings are regularly held with appropriate attendance and quorum.

Robust AP and CP appointment and competency arrangements remain in place.

Planned Preventative Maintenance programmes remain established and monitored through CAFM, with 384 of 391 MGPS PPMs completed in the latest reporting period.

Annual statutory funding continues to support compliance-related improvements and remediation works.

Internal and external audit arrangements remain effective and are supplemented by Authorising Engineer reviews.

Audit findings are being incorporated into AMAT to strengthen compliance monitoring and action tracking.

Risk Management

Five MGPS risks remain active and under management; none requires escalation to the Health & Safety Committee at this reporting period. The Estates Directorate maintains a structured risk management framework whereby:

Risks are recorded and managed through Datix.

Risks exceeding tolerance are escalated through appropriate governance routes.

Monthly Estates risk meetings review risk status and mitigation actions.

A dedicated monthly risk checkpoint meeting has been introduced to improve oversight and ensure reviews are completed within required timescales.

Service-level risks are continually reviewed to determine whether escalation to directorate-level registers is required.

Policies

The Health Boards MGPS Policy is confirmed as having been recently reviewed and is therefore within its review date.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Health & Safety Committee is requested to:

- **TAKE ASSURANCE** on the effectiveness of MGPS governance, maintenance, inspection and risk management arrangements, including strong compliance performance, statutory maintenance and the absence of MGPS incidents.
- **NOTE** the ongoing management of MGPS infrastructure risks and challenges, including ageing assets and repair backlogs, and support future investment and recovery actions to maintain resilience, compliance and performance targets.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau) **Objectives: (must be completed)**	
Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor: Committee ToR Reference:	2.1 Provide assurance around the UHB arrangements for ensuring the health, safety, welfare and security of all employees and of those who may be affected by work-related activities, such as patients, members of the public, volunteers, contractors etc.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix, Teitl a Sgôr Risg Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	N/A
Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	1. Safe

Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	6. All Apply
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	Not Applicable
Nodau Cynllunio 2026/27 Planning Goals 2026/27	1. Healthy, Thriving Teams 8. Fit for Purpose, Modern Facilities and Services
Hypergyswllt i Amcanion Llesiant HDdUHB 2026 Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives 2026	10. Not Applicable
Model Cymdeithasol ar gyfer Iechyd a Llesiant: (wedi'i gwblhau ar gyfer newid strategol a/neu newidiadau sylweddol i wasanaethau) A Social Model for Health and Wellbeing: (*complete for strategic change and/or significant service changes)*	Not Applicable
Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Health & Safety Committee Terms of Reference Establishment/Dis-establishment of Committees/Sub-Committees (SOP for the Management of Board and Committees)
Rhestr Termau: Glossary of Terms:	Contained within the body of the report.
Partïon / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y cyfarfod hwn: Parties / Committees consulted prior to this meeting:	Director of Corporate Governance (Board Secretary) Assistant Director of Assurance and Risk Executive Team Medical Gas Piped Systems Safety Group

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	No direct costs.

Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: **Quality / Patient Care:**	The intention of this report is to improve health and safety governance arrangements to drive improvements within the Health Board
Gweithlu: **Workforce:**	No direct impact.
Tegwch Iechyd: **Health Equity:**	No direct impact.
Risg: **Risk:**	No direct impact.
Cyfreithiol: **Legal:**	No direct impact.
Enw Da: **Reputational:**	No direct impact.
Gyfrinachedd: **Privacy:**	No direct impact.
Cydraddoldeb: **Equality:**	No evidence gathered to indicate a negative impact on any protected group/s.

APPENDIX 1: MGPS Metrics

This Piped Medical Gas provides details of the organisation's compliance with its statutory duties under health and safety legislation, including:

Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996;
Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended) (COSHH)

Further detail about the actions needed to improve the current position are included in the main body of the report.

Reporting Period	Aug-26		Unable to report compliance
Responsible Head of Service	Simon Day		Non-compliant
Date	29/08/2026		Non-compliant but tracking Executive agreed plan
Author/s	Simon Day		Compliant

Performance Metric	Target	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Interim Target	Trend
% training compliance	AE Satisfied	AE Satisfied	AE Satisfied	AE Satisfied	AE Satisfied	AE Satisfied	AE Satisfied	↑ ↓ ↔
insurance inspections compliance VIE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
insurance inspections compliance MGPS Plant	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	↑ ↓ ↔
Number MGPS PPMs Issued		391	413	443	411	391		↑ ↓ ↔
Number MGPS PPMs completed		379	405	440	409	384		↑ ↓ ↔
MGPS PPM % Completion Rate	95%	97%	98%	99%	99%	98%	95%	↑ ↓ ↔
VIE Maintenance completed by BOC as per schedule		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		↑ ↓ ↔

Number Oxygen VIE PPMs Issued		103	102	103	100	109		↑ ↓ ↔
Number Oxygen VIE PPMs completed		103	102	103	100	106		↑ ↓ ↔
Oxygen VIE % Completion Rate	95%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	95%	↑ ↓ ↔
Number of MGPS repairs /replacements generated		25	14	20	15	20		↑ ↓ ↔
Number of MGPS repairs /replacements completed		24	13	19	15	18		↑ ↓ ↔
MGPS repairs /replacements % Completion Rate	95%	96%	93%	100%	100%	90%	95%	↑ ↓ ↔
MGPS external maintenance completed as per schedule	Yes	Yes	Yes				Yes	↑ ↓ ↔
Number of medical gas incidents (Internal)		0	0	0	0	0		↑ ↓ ↔
Number of medical gas incidents (External)		0	0	0	0	0		↑ ↓ ↔
Number of medical gas risks		5	5	5	5	5		↑ ↓ ↔
Medical Gas Policy in date	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	↔