

IHEEM Authorising Engineer (AE) Medical Engineering

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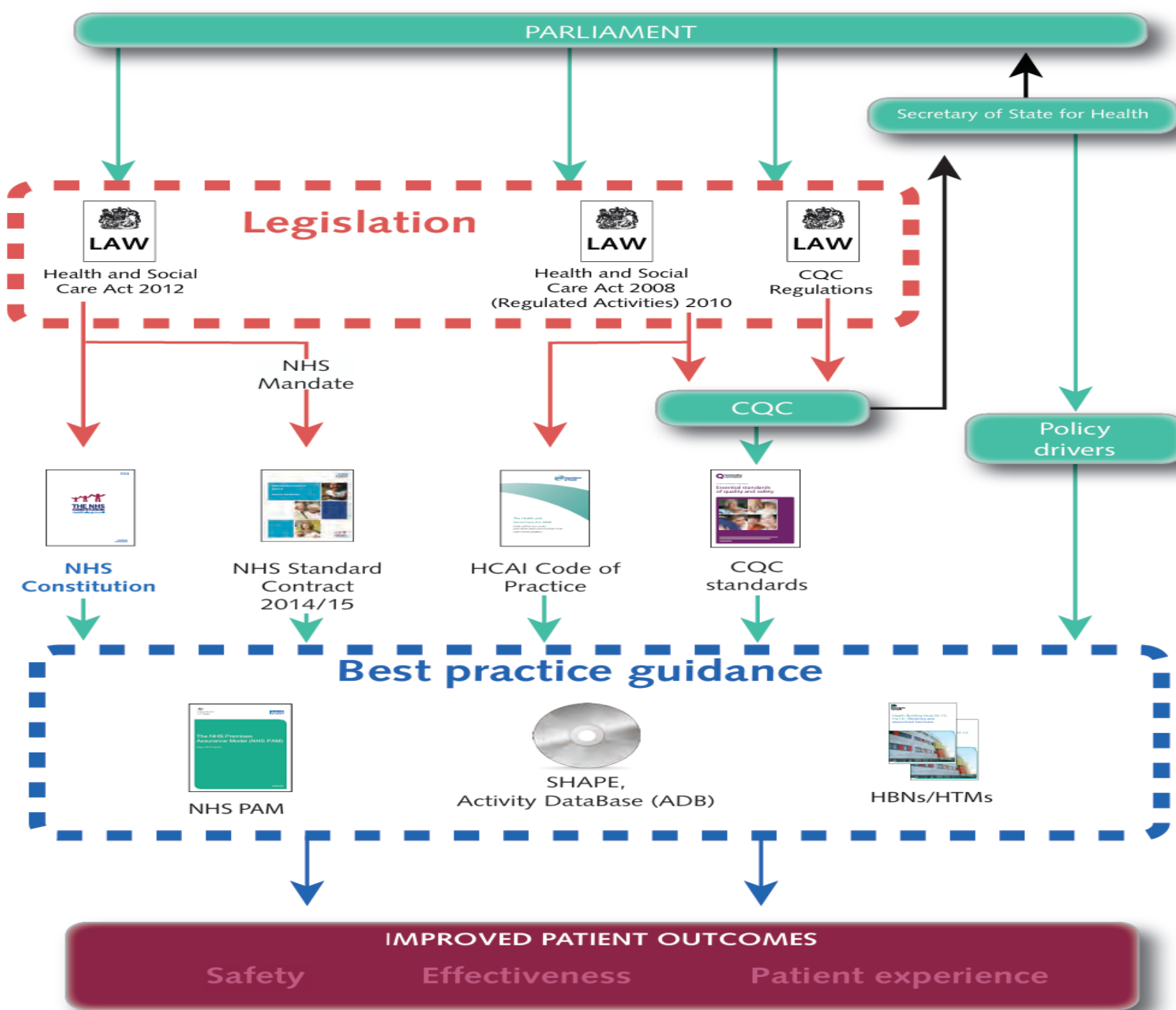
IHEEM Authorising Engineer (AE)

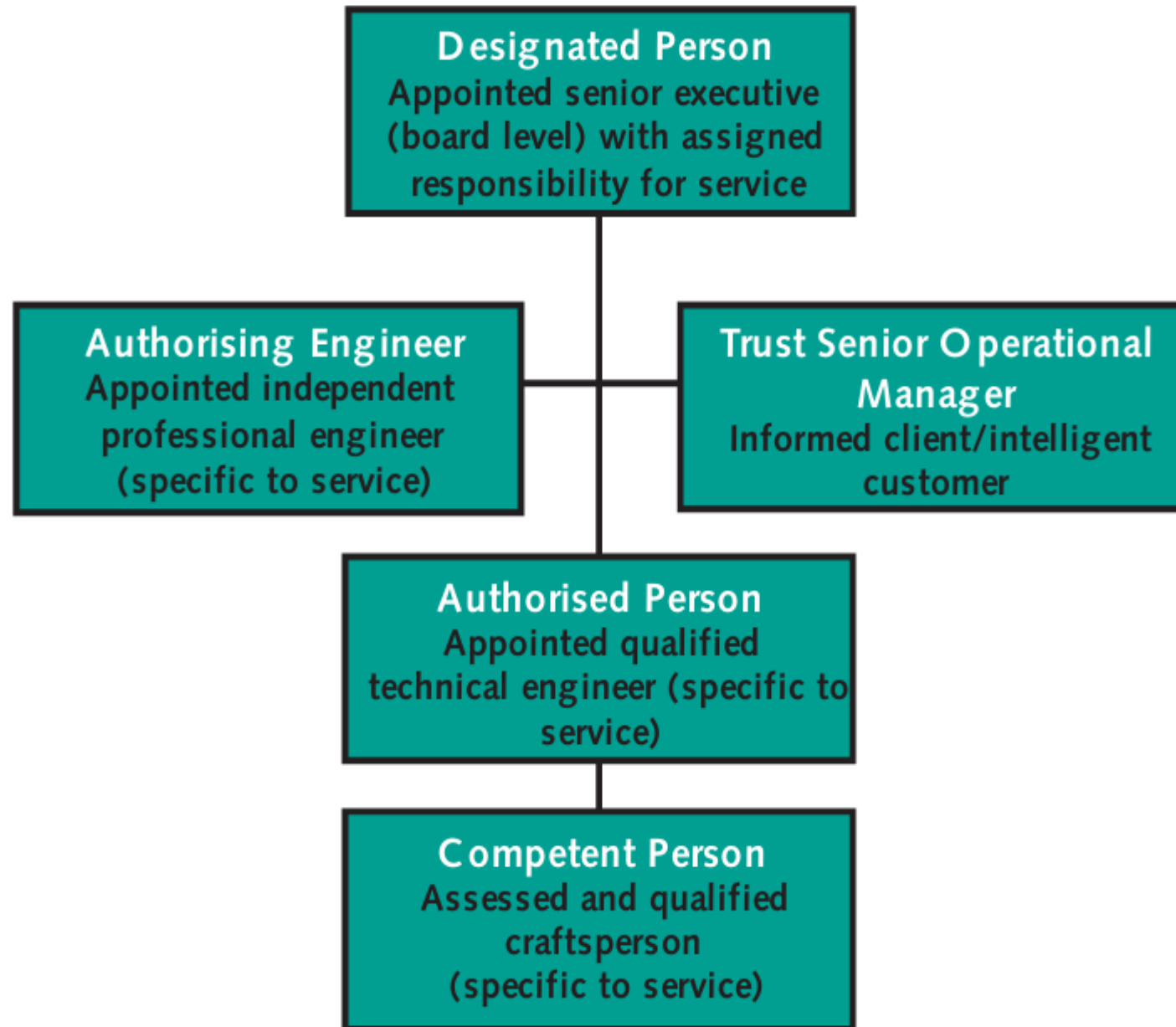
- NHS Constitution: *'You have the right to be cared for in a clean, safe, secure and suitable environment'* – now a contractual requirement for NHS Trusts
- Therefore: Patients and staff have a right to expect that engineering systems and equipment will be designed, installed, operated and maintained to standards that will enable them to function efficiently, reliably and safely. Compliance with the guidance in the HTMs will help to meet these goals.
- Healthcare providers have a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act to ensure that appropriate engineering governance arrangements are in place and are managed effectively.
- HTMs provide best practice engineering standards and policy to enable management of this duty of care.

IHEEM Authorising Engineer (AE)

HTM00 Policies and Principles of Healthcare Engineering:

- The aim of HTM 00 is to ensure that everyone concerned with the managing, design, procurement and use of the healthcare facility understands the requirements (including regulatory) of the specialist, critical building and engineering technology involved.
- The core guidance (including professional support) is applicable to all building engineering services including those not covered by HTMs (for example, steam, pressurised hot water and gas services)





NHS England/IHEEM Partnership to Standardise Authorising Engineer Certification Across the NHS

In October 2025, NHS England and the Institute of Healthcare Engineering and Estate Management (IHEEM) formally entered into a new strategic partnership to deliver a unified, nationally recognised certification and registration process for Authorising Engineers (AEs) working within the NHS and across commissioned healthcare providers in England.

This partnership marks a significant milestone in strengthening the governance, quality, and professional consistency of Authorising Engineers—a critical workforce responsible for ensuring the safety, compliance, and reliability of healthcare infrastructure across multiple technical disciplines including electrical systems, water safety, ventilation, medical gases, decontamination, fire safety, and lifts.

Raising Standards Across the NHS Estate

Under the new agreement, IHEEM has become the sole gatekeeper for AE certification, overseeing a structured pathway that ensures all practising AEs meet a clear, consistent national standard. The partnership introduces a three-year transition period during which all current AEs must undergo accreditation with IHEEM.

NHS England will incorporate this requirement into the revised *Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 00*, set for publication in 2026, making IHEEM accreditation mandatory for anyone operating as an AE on NHS infrastructure.

This integrated approach aims to:

- Improve safety, competency, and consistency across the NHS estate
- Provide greater assurance for NHS Trusts and patients
- Establish a nationally recognised, professionalised AE framework
- Ensure transparent governance and high-quality oversight

IHEEM Authorising Engineer Certification and Registration

IHEEM will hold the NHSE Certification and a Central Register for AE's in the following disciplines:

- Electrical (HV/LV)
- Decontamination
- Ventilation
- Water Safety
- Medical Gas Pipeline Systems (MGPS)
- Lifts
- Fire Safety (IEA)

IHEEM certifies AE (Medical Engineering) and holds a register of those AE's but this does not currently form part of the NHSE agreement for the NHS.

Re-registration occurs every three years for all AE disciplines

AE APPLICATION PROCESS

Once ratified, individual will receive an acceptance letter and AE invoice and then once paid added to AE register and receive their official certificate.



Successfully registered AE will be expected to participate in the assessment of future AE applications, subject to the declaration of any potential conflicts of interest and will also be subject to re-registration after 3 years.

If applicant is successful the application gets sent to the next membership and registration meeting to be ratified



If successful the individual is invited to an Interview which is conducted by 2 AE's of that discipline and 1 independent observer (normally an AE from another discipline)



Application is sent to 3 practising AEs in that discipline for review



Individual submits AE Application



Authorising Engineer – Medical Engineering (ME)

Purpose

The AE (ME) is an expert in Managing Medical Engineering who can audit healthcare organisations against the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) requirements - Managing Medical Engineering - Guidance for health and social care organisations.

The AE (ME) must talk to key stakeholders, review evidence, determine the compliance levels, then report / advise on improvements to reduce risks and improve patient safety.

The AE (ME) will use their expert knowledge to review policies, governance and performance then complete a management report for the organisation with recommendations for improvement.

Authorising Engineer Medical Engineering (ME)

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Managing Medical Engineering (2021) - Guidance for health and social care organisations:

- Outlines a systematic approach to the acquisition, deployment, maintenance (preventive maintenance and performance assurance), repair and disposal of Medical Engineering.
- Monitoring the organisation's performance on medical device management is important to minimise or eliminate risks to patients and staff.
- The CQC will inspect against their Essential Standards of Quality and Safety.
- Healthcare organisations should consider benchmarking their management of Medical Engineering with other healthcare organisation's. An audit report should be submitted to the board.

Authorising Engineer Medical Engineering (ME)

Chapter 2 (MHRA 2021) - Systems of Management –

- Healthcare organisations should appoint a director or board member with overall responsibility for medical device management.
- Healthcare organisations should set out a long-term approach and objectives for the management of their Medical Engineering, including strategic replacement and development equipment procurement planning. This should include an overarching Medical Engineering management strategy setting out medium to long term organisational requirements of assets taking account of cost, performance and risk across the entire equipment lifecycle.
- This strategic approach should also align with the responsible organisations overarching business / strategic plan.
- Accurate and complete copies of records in paper or electronic form are required to be made available for future inspection, review and copying e.g. for CQC, internal audits, traceability, investigations.

Authorising Engineer Medical Engineering (ME)

The following (summary) criteria will apply for registration as an AE (ME):

The applicant must be either:

- Member of IHEEM at Fellow or Member level
- Chartered Engineer, or an Incorporated Engineer, or equivalent professional experience with a minimum of 10 years with practical and relevant technical engineering knowledge and experience in ME systems to current standards (supported by a relevant CPD Log or suitable documented evidence).

and...

- Have a minimum of 10 years relevant ME systems engineering experience in one or more of the following areas:
- Operational Management/Auditing management systems/Risk Assessment
- Design of ME Systems/Project Management/Statutory Enforcement/Other related ME Health and Safety experience.
- Completed an appropriate AP (ME) course and passed the Authorised Persons training courses within 3 years prior to application.
- Completed an AE Course (City & Guilds Certified) within the previous three years or six months for first registration.
- Submit a Practice Report of approximately 2000 words + appendices outlining the experience and type of work carried out.

Why Should you join?

Among the key benefits of IHEEM Certification and Register are:

- The Register of AE (ME) comprises a group of like-minded professionals. Healthcare organisations will be able to see that these personnel have been through a peer review process, providing a level of assurance on the competency of individuals to fulfil the requirements of an AE (ME).
- The Register is professionally acknowledged by several NHS Trusts already and in the Medical Engineering Profession and wider Estates and Facilities management communities.
- The AE (ME) Register makes a significant contribution to raising industry standards for statutory compliance for ME systems (although not currently part of the NHSE/IHEEM agreement and central NHS Register)
- The Register will be published on the IHEEM website, in Health Estate Journal, and at the IHEEM conference and exhibition.
- Registered IHEEM Authoring Engineers (ME) will be able to use the IHEEM AE logo on all correspondence and have free and unlimited use of the AE (ME) Auditing Software Tool.

IHEEM Medical Engineering Technical Platform

- The primary purpose of IHEEM`s Technical Platforms is to act as the Institute`s focal point for all technical matters concerning the relevant specialism or discipline it represents.
- This includes, but is not limited to, the creation and maintenance of IHEEM policies, best practice guidance, advise on relevant developments in the specialism /discipline and comment on and influence areas of policy and operational practice for the various technical aspects in that field.
- To promote the publication of books and technical papers on specialist/discipline specific matters, including the submission of technical papers to the Health Estate Journal and other relevant publications.
- To liaise with other relevant national and international professional bodies and organisations e.g. NHS England and NHS Improvement, Devolved Nations, Royal Academy of Engineering, The British Standards Institution for the purpose of sharing information and formulation of policy advice or guidance on specialist /discipline specific matters.
- To provide the Institutes formal response to requests for comment or contribution to relevant HTMs, HBNs and any further guidance by the Department of Health, NHS England and the Devolved Nations.
- To establish AE (ME) Board of Registration for assessing and certifying Authorising Engineers (ME)

[IHEEM Medical Engineering Technical Platform – IHEEM](#)

Contact: medengtp@iheem.org.uk

Thank you

Questions?