

Introduction to Biomedical Design

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Key concepts, process steps, and design considerations for creating medical devices and health? care solutions.

1. What Is Biomedical Design?

Aspect	Description
Definition	The interdisciplinary practice of applying engineering, biology, and clinical knowledge to develop devices, systems, and technologies that improve diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, or prevention of disease.
Goal	Deliver safe, effective, and user?friendly solutions that meet clinical needs and regulatory standards.
Stakeholders	Patients, clinicians, engineers, regulatory bodies, manufacturers, insurers, and payers.

2. Core Disciplines Involved

Discipline	Role in Design
Mechanical Engineering	Structural design, material selection, ergonomics, and manufacturing processes.
Electrical/Electronics Engineering	Sensors, signal acquisition, power management, and circuit design.
Computer Science & Software	Embedded firmware, data analytics, machine learning, UI/UX, and cybersecurity.
Materials Science	Biocompatible polymers, metals, ceramics, and emerging biomaterials.
Biology & Physiology	Understanding anatomy, biomechanics, and pathophysiology to define functional requirements.
Clinical Medicine	Provides real?world use cases, workflow integration, and safety/efficacy feedback.

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Discipline

Role in Design

Regulatory & Quality Engineering

Ensures compliance with standards (ISO 13485, IEC 60601, FDA 21 CFR 820, etc.).

3. Design Process Overview

1. Identify Clinical Need

- Conduct market research, literature review, and clinician interviews.
- Use tools like *Voice of the Customer (VoC)*, *Problem Statement*, and *Value Proposition Canvas*.

2. Define Requirements

- **User Requirements Specification (URS):** functional, performance, and usability criteria.
- **Regulatory Requirements:** classification (Class I/II/III), standards, and labeling.
- **Risk Requirements:** preliminary Hazard Analysis (HAZOP, FMEA).

3. Concept Generation & Screening

- Brainstorm multiple concepts (sketches, CAD mockups).
- Evaluate using *Pugh matrix* or *Decision Matrix* against criteria (cost, risk, feasibility).

4. Preliminary Design

- Create 3D CAD models, select materials, and outline system architecture.
- Perform *Finite Element Analysis (FEA)*, *Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)*, or *electromagnetic simulations* as needed.

5. Prototype Development

- **Low-fidelity:** foam, 3D printed parts, breadboard electronics.
- **High-fidelity:** functional prototypes with final materials, integrated electronics, and software.

6. Verification & Validation (V&V)

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- **Verification:** Does the design meet the specifications? (bench testing, benchtop measurements).
- **Validation:** Does the product meet the clinical need? (usability testing, animal studies, pilot clinical trials).

7. Risk Management & Documentation

- Conduct *ISO 14971* risk analysis, update *Design History File (DHF)*, and maintain traceability matrices.

8. Regulatory Submission & Approval

- Prepare *Premarket Notification (510(k))* or *Premarket Approval (PMA)* dossier, or CE Technical File.
- Address *Design Controls* and *Quality System* requirements.

9. **Manufacturing Transfer & Scale?up