

**UHMS Position Statement**  
**Standards for Clinical Hyperbaric Treatment Facilities**  
**March 2009**

The UHMS recommends that all clinical hyperbaric treatment facilities, regardless of whether the facility is considered to be organizationally independent or hospital affiliated, meet the same criteria for patient selection and treatment, clinical supervision, staff training and certification, chamber operation and maintenance, accreditation, emergency response capability and compliance with national patient care and safety standards.

Specifically the UHMS recommends:

- Patient selection, hyperbaric oxygen (HBO<sub>2</sub>) prescription and the application of HBO<sub>2</sub> therapy be guided by the clinical indications and treatment protocols detailed in the UHMS Position Statement on HBO<sub>2</sub> Therapy Use Indications.
- Clinical direction and supervision of HBO<sub>2</sub> therapy be conducted by physicians having American Board of Medical Specialties certification, or the internationally equivalent, in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine, as defined in the UHMS Position Statement on Clinician Attendance of HBO<sub>2</sub> Therapy.
- The normal daily clinical and managerial operation of a facility be overseen by an experienced Director(s) capable of creating and applying the broad range of policy and procedures that national accreditation requires.
- Clinical support staff obtain appropriate national board specialty certification as either a Certified Hyperbaric Registered Nurse, Certified Hyperbaric Technologist or international equivalent, as appropriate for a given staff member's professional degree, training and facility location.
- For facilities within the United States, compliance with the American Society of Mechanical Engineer's Safety Standards for Pressure Vessels for Human Occupancy (ASME PVHO-1) and applicable chapters of the National Fire Protection Association's Safety Standards for Health Care Facilities (NPA 99). For facilities located outside the United States, compliance with the locally applicable, equivalent(s) of the above national standards is recommended.
- Accreditation by a recognized national specialty organization whose criteria are, at a minimum, equivalent to standards specified by the UHMS Hyperbaric Facility Accreditation Manual.
- Establishment of emergency response procedures that ensure timely patient access to a hospital or acute care facility capable of providing emergent clinical support and treatment of any complications arising from hyperbaric therapy or, when indicated, the patient's underlying disease processes.
- Compliance with locally and nationally accepted standards for patient rights, responsibilities, education, infection control and safety, as appropriate to a facility's administrative organization, professional affiliations and national location.