

Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society Committee on Office-based Hyperbaric Medicine Practice Charter

August 30, 2022

Effective Date: September 15, 2022

Last Reviewed: September 6, 2022

I. Name

The UHMS Committee on Office-Based Hyperbaric Medicine Practice

II. Purpose

We are moving towards a world where out-of-hospital HBO₂ is becoming more common. The UHMS has the knowledge, contacts, and resources to help physicians who want to practice hyperbaric medicine and practice it effectively and safely. The UHMS is the “go-to” entity that the industry partners with and collaborates with on complex problems. If the UHMS wishes to stay relevant to this vast population, we must offer some value-based service. We must strive to be inclusive of and helpful to those physicians who will be using HBO₂ in their practice. We must address safety concerns of HBO₂ being done badly or ineffectively by providing educational support on what constitutes effective and safe HBO₂.

III. Goal

To support providers who want to practice office-based hyperbaric medicine and to increase the awareness of the utility of HBO₂ as a drug. To help clarify the utility, benefits, and safety concerns of various chambers and treatment protocols inclusive of “soft chambers”.

IV. Council Membership and Organizational Structure

The committee membership aims to reflect the professional demographic constituency of the UHMS and its core stakeholders. As such, the committee is open to any UHMS member in good standing, with an aim to include providers with all geographic areas represented.

The chair of the committee was originally appointed by the UHMS President. This Charter must be reviewed annually. All other members of the committee shall be volunteer members of the UHMS. A minimum of 50% of the members must have a site of service practice located outside of the hospital environment and control. If representation from any category or location is lacking, the Chairperson, with assistance from the Executive Director, will seek to achieve and maintain a balance in the committee with respect to geographic and position representation through targeted invitation. Volunteer participation will be reviewed annually. There are no limits on consecutive membership terms; volunteers may, however, withdraw their participation at any time by contacting the Chair. Volunteer members of the committee are expected to participate in the annual voting process and charter review and are asked to participate in committee efforts and/or virtual meetings throughout the year. Any absence of three (3) consecutive formal meetings without due cause will trigger a review by the Chair. The Chair, after consultation with UHMS Executive Director, President, or Board of Directors as appropriate, shall have the authority to dismiss committee members if they fail to uphold the UHMS Code of Conduct or adequately fulfill their duties and obligations.

V. Meetings

The Committee shall meet as needed or at least annually at the Annual Scientific Meeting. Due to the widespread geographic locations of committee members, it is anticipated that the majority of committee communication will be conducted electronically through email correspondence or via virtual teleconference as appropriate. Electronic communication is acceptable if it meets the requirements. A simple majority will establish a quorum for the purposes of conducting official committee business.

VI. Reports

The chair of the committee shall submit reports to the ED at least annually for the UHMS Board of Directors meeting at the ASM.