

UHMS Position Statement
CLINICIAN ATTENDANCE OF HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY
March 2009

The UHMS recommends that physicians or, as permitted by applicable government regulations, supervised non-physician providers who are appropriately trained in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine be immediately available to the Hyperbaric Medicine Department throughout the administration of hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

Physician Specific Recommendations:

1. The UHMS recommends that physicians supervising the treatment of patients with hyperbaric oxygen within the United States be:

- A. Board Certified in a primary medical specialty, AND
- B. Either Board Certified or Board Eligible for certification in the subspecialty of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine as endorsed by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Board of Osteopathic Medical Specialties, OR
- C. If not medically trained within the United States, meet the supervisory and didactic requirements of fellowship training in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine as endorsed by the American Board of Medical Specialties.

2. In countries other than the United States, the UHMS recognizes that local qualification and training standards are in place. In these instances, the UHMS recommends that physicians be:

- A. A specialist qualified in a primary medical specialty, AND
- B. Meet the supervisory and didactic training requirements of the following standards:
 - 1. Participate in a recognized Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine course(s) of not less than 80 hours total teaching duration, AND
 - 2. Have logged 6 months (or 1000 hours) working in a hyperbaric facility under the direction of a hyperbaric physician already meeting these three criteria, AND
 - 3. Complete a formal research or audit project approved by a Hyperbaric Supervisor as sufficient in quality and scope to support designation as a hyperbaric qualified specialist.

Non-Physician Provider Specific Recommendations:

The UHMS supports the on-site supervision of hyperbaric oxygen therapy by a Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant if each of the following conditions is met:

- 1. The supervising physician meets the UHMS recommendations for physician attendance as outlined in the previous section, AND
- 2. The supervising physician is immediately available to the Hyperbaric Medicine Department as specified by applicable government regulations, AND
- 3. The Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant has obtained appropriate specialty certification through the National Board of Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Technology as a Certified Hyperbaric Register Nurse (CHRN) or Certified Hyperbaric Technologist (CHT), or international equivalent.

As this position statement primarily applies to the routine treatment of clinical patients, these recommendations are not intended to limit the ability of qualified providers to deliver appropriately indicated hyperbaric oxygen therapy in emergent care settings.