



POD- 06/05/15  
Open-  
Hyperbaric  
Oxygen  
Treatment  
(handout-  
appearance)

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**Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Supervision In Wisconsin  
By Qualified Doctors of Podiatric  
Medicine and Surgery**

Background

The benefits of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) for certain medical conditions are well-established. These include diabetic wounds of the lower extremities where standard wound therapy has not been successful (chronic non-healing wounds), compromised skin grafts and crushing injuries. A number of Wisconsin hospitals and health systems have asked their doctors of podiatric medicine and surgery to supervise HBOT services at their facilities.

Qualifications

A Wisconsin-licensed doctor of podiatric medicine and surgery is understood to satisfy the best practices within the practice of podiatry care for HBOT supervision by adhering to or exceeding these qualifications:

- Hold an unrestricted license to practice podiatric medicine and surgery.
  - Within two (2) years of beginning to provide HBOT supervision, has attended and successfully completed one of the following:
    - ACGME, American Osteopathic Association or Department of Defense recognized fellowship in Hyperbaric Medicine with Board Certification or eligibility in the subspecialty of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association;
- or (combination of Education and Training):
- 40 hour introductory course in hyperbaric medicine approved by ACHM, UHMS or DOD not more than 5 years prior to applying to oversee treatment and one of the following:
- has performed at least 25 treatments per year since that time, or
  - supervised 25 hyperbaric treatments with face-to-face proctoring by a qualified hyperbaric physician followed by quality review of 100 non-proctored cases as part of an Ongoing Professional

Practice Evaluation (OPPE) as recommended and outlined by the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation.

- If either provision has not been fulfilled within the preceding 2 years, at least 15 hours of CME credit relevant to HBOT must be completed prior to resuming care of the hyperbaric patient.
  - The podiatrist should demonstrate competency in chamber operation and the emergency treatment of hyperbaric related medical conditions and complications of therapy. In lieu of proctoring, the podiatrist may obtain from the training program director of a hyperbaric center attestation of evidence that the podiatrist has satisfactorily supervised at least 50 treatments and performed 25 hyperbaric consultations in the prior two years.
- Maintain education and complete 15 CME credits in HBOT supervision every 25 months and document having supervised at least 50 treatments over the 24 month period.
  - Have satisfied hyperbaric credentialing requirements set by the hospital or other facility that are commensurate with the level of care being provided. This care may include HBOT supervision by a qualified podiatrist that relates to HBOT care beyond what the podiatrist himself/herself may prescribe.
  - Provide supervision only at a hyperbaric facility with appropriate professional staff, nurses and hyperbaric technicians.
  - Provide such supervisory care for only patients with well-recognized indications of medical necessity of HBOT, as documented by the patient's prescribing health care provider.
  - Have equipment available to support patient care needs, including intervention needs.
  - If the HBOT is provided in a hospital out-patient setting, the podiatrist is present and on the premises of the location and is immediately available to furnish assistance and direction throughout the performance of the procedure. It does not mean that the podiatrist must be physically present in the room when the procedure is performed.
  - Properly oversee the safe work environment of inside attendants.
  - Assure that an emergency response team must be available throughout the treatment.

- Preferably have access to a physician within 15 minutes, at all times, in the event of a life-threatening complication and while the patient is undergoing decompression during HBOT.

Note: Since we are addressing only the qualifications of Wisconsin podiatrists to supervise HBOT, we do not specify facility or staff training and their competency requirements. Also, we do not address payment for these services as that is an insurance matter. We are specifically addressing here best-practices for HBOT care and supervision by Wisconsin podiatrists.