

INDICATIONS FOR HYPERBARIC OXYGEN (HBO) THERAPY



The Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS) issues a report of the indications for which hyperbaric oxygen therapy is deemed safe and effective. The UHMS is the primary source of scientific information for hyperbaric medicine physiology worldwide.

Payors such as Medicare conduct literature reviews and then make their own determination on which conditions/diseases are or are not covered. Covered indications vary based upon insurance carrier and can be found in your LCD.

What is Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy?

Hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) therapy is the utilization of oxygen under pressure to enhance the body's natural ability to heal. Patients breathe 100% oxygen inside a chamber that is pressurized at 2-3 times greater than atmospheric pressure.

The treatment causes an increase in plasma and tissue oxygen, which stimulates angiogenesis and fights infection in an effort to speed healing.

While HBO is considered a primary treatment for a few conditions, in most cases it is an adjunctive therapy.

The following indications for HBO are approved by the UHMS: ++

- Air or gas embolism*
- Carbon monoxide poisoning*
 - › Carbon monoxide poisoning complicated by cyanide poisoning
- Clostridial myositis and myonecrosis (gas gangrene)
- Crush injury, compartment syndrome and other acute traumatic ischemias
- Decompression sickness*
- Arterial insufficiencies
 - › Central retinal artery occlusion*
 - › Enhanced healing in select problem wounds (including diabetic foot ulcers, Wagner grade 3 or higher)
- Severe anemia
- Intracranial abscess
- Necrotizing soft tissue infections
- Osteomyelitis (refractory)
- Delayed radiation injury (soft tissue and bony necrosis)
- Compromised grafts and flaps
- Thermal burn injury
- Idiopathic sudden sensorineural hearing loss

++ Maui Memorial Medical Center Wound Care and Hyperbaric Therapy may not offer treatment for all indications listed.

*HBO is a primary treatment

For more information on hyperbaric oxygen therapy, please call: