

Information for Inpatient Nurses about Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT)

What is HBOT?

The patient breathes 100% oxygen while in a pressurized hyperbaric chamber.

What is it used for?

There are 14 approved indications for HBOT. Some of the most common are: delayed radiation injury, compromised grafts or flaps, and difficult to treat infections such as osteomyelitis.

For a complete list visit <https://www.uhms.org/resources/hbo-indications.html>.

Special Considerations: 👁 👁 = To be addressed by inpatient nurse prior to each HBOT

Timing: Treatments are given daily, Mon through Fri. Your patient will be in the hyperbaric chamber for approximately 2 hours each treatment. Many patient receive up to 40 treatments. Scheduled start times are 0715, 0930, and 1230, though there may be limited availability.

Pain meds: Please administer scheduled and PRN pain medications prior to HBOT to keep your patient comfortable during the lengthy treatment. 👁 👁

Diabetic patients who receive insulin must have a blood glucose (BG) level of at least 120 prior to treatment because HBOT has the potential to lower BG by up to 50 points. We will check a finger stick chamber-side prior to treatment. Insulin coverage may need to be adjusted. Please make sure your patient eats something before HBOT. 👁 👁

Anxiety: Most patients tolerate HBOT without issue. If your patient expresses serious concerns about claustrophobia, please discuss the possibility of anxiolytic medication with the covering provider.

HBOT compatible items: Please see below for information. 👁 👁

If you have questions about the treatments or about a particular patient, give us a call at **650-6489**. We're staffed Monday – Friday from 0700 – 1530.

Please come visit us! We are on Level 2 of the Rubin building, behind 2K reception.

Center for Hyperbaric Medicine staff

Judy Kertis, RN BSN

Pam Hannigan, RN

Kati Miller, RN BSN

Jennifer Curtin, RN

Dr. Jay Buckey

Dr. Nicole Harlan



What can & can't go in the hyperbaric chamber:

Your patient cannot bring any personal items into the chamber with them, such as a book or cell phone. ❌ They can watch cable TV or Netflix, or listen to a music CD.

To reduce the build-up of static electricity, only the 100% cotton gown and linen we provide can be worn in the chamber. If your patient has one of these blue gowns in their room, please have them change into it before their treatment. 👁️ 👁️ No personal clothing. ❌

Eyeglasses that don't contain titanium can be worn in the hyperbaric chamber, HBOT staff will verify for each patient. ? Soft contact lenses may be worn ✅, hard contact lenses must be removed. ❌

All jewelry must be removed prior to HBOT. ❌

Hearing aids can't go into the hyperbaric chamber, but please do send your patient down with them. HBOT staff will remove them prior to treatment. ❌

Most pacemakers and ICDs can be safely used in the hyperbaric chamber. HBOT staff will need to verify the qualification of your patient's specific device. ?

Lotions, deodorants, powders, cosmetics, perfumes, and hair-care products should not be applied prior to HBOT. ❌ CHG bath wipes that DO NOT contain alcohol may be used. ✅

Medication patches can't be worn in the chamber. ❌ Application timing may need to be adjusted. 👁️ 👁️

Many dressings, topical wound care products, and packing materials are not appropriate for use in the hyperbaric chamber. ? Please be aware of all products being used and discuss with HBOT staff. 👁️ 👁️

For patients who are allowed to drink, we provide them with a bottle of water to take into the chamber. No food is permitted, ❌ so if your patient is allowed to eat please make sure they have the opportunity to do so before HBOT. 👁️ 👁️

Implanted ports, central lines, and PIVs are OK. ✅ HBOT staff will remove the blue caps (which contain alcohol) prior to treatment. All IV infusions must be stopped and disconnected. 👁️ 👁️

Wound vac dressings can go into the hyperbaric chamber. ✅ HBOT staff will disconnect the pump prior to treatment and reconnect it after.

Foley catheters can go into the hyperbaric chamber, as long as the balloon is filled with fluid and not air. ?

Colostomy bags can go into the hyperbaric chamber. ✅

Tracheostomy patients can receive HBOT as long as their cuff is down or filled with fluid rather than air. ?

✅ = Approved for use in the hyperbaric chamber

❌ = Not safe for use in the hyperbaric chamber

? = Requires evaluation by HBOT staff prior to use in the hyperbaric chamber

👁️ 👁️ = To be addressed by inpatient nurse prior to each HBOT