

## Standard of Practice: Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

### Standard of Practice

When performing hyperbaric oxygen therapy, naturopathic doctors must do so in a safe, competent and ethical manner.

### Introduction

This standard is intended to outline how naturopathic doctors can provide safe, competent and ethical care, when performing hyperbaric oxygen therapy for a patient. Naturopathic doctors may refer to the **CNDA Guideline: Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy** for further guidance.

### Definitions

**Competence:** the integrated knowledge, skills, judgement and attributes required of a naturopathic doctor to practise safely and ethically.

**Hyperbaric oxygen therapy:** the delivery of 100% oxygen at pressures above 1.4 ATA (Atmospheres Absolute).

**Patient medical record:** an account or evidence of documented patient findings, assessments, diagnoses and treatments.

**Standard of Practice:** an authoritative statement that describes a minimum required behaviour of every naturopathic doctor and is used to evaluate individual conduct. Naturopathic doctors should always strive to practice above the minimum standards. Performance below the minimum standard may result in disciplinary action.

**Student:** a student who is enrolled in a 4-year program of studies in naturopathic medicine approved by the Council, and for the purpose of performing restricted activities under the supervision of a regulated member is also taking a specific course of studies within that program to perform restricted activities as outlined in section 37(2) of the *Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation*.

### Naturopathic doctors demonstrate this standard of practice by:

- 1) only performing hyperbaric oxygen therapy with authorization by the Registrar and in accordance with any restrictions or provisions required by the Registrar;
- 2) ensuring that all required qualifications to perform hyperbaric oxygen therapy are current, in accordance with the **CNDA Continuing Competence Program Rules**;
- 3) having skills and knowledge of:
  - a) theory and principles of hyperbaric oxygen therapy,
  - b) assessment and diagnosis,
  - c) appropriate safety measures for the use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy,
  - d) appropriate application and treatment techniques of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, and
  - e) indications and contraindications of hyperbaric oxygen therapy;
- 4) properly documenting hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatments in the patient medical record in accordance with the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping** and must include:
  - a) vital signs,
  - b) rate of pressurization,

- c) depth of dive,
  - d) length of treatment, and
  - e) any adverse events or complications;
- 5) initiating and monitoring the patient throughout hyperbaric oxygen therapy treatment;
  - 6) only performing hyperbaric oxygen therapy using a hyperbaric chamber with a Medical Device License from Health Canada;
  - 7) maintaining a valid registration with an Alberta government approved safety authority;
  - 8) ensuring that all devices and equipment used have been properly installed by a qualified technician;
  - 9) not altering devices in a manner not approved by the original manufacturer;
  - 10) maintaining appropriate equipment maintenance records, in accordance with the **CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping** and must include:
    - a) installation documentation,
    - b) annual inspection certificate(s),
    - c) maintenance documentation,
    - d) cleaning records, and
    - e) usage log;
  - 11) having knowledge of and performing hyperbaric oxygen therapy in accordance with the following CNDA standards and guidelines:
    - a) **CNDA Standard of Practice: General,**
    - b) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Consent,**
    - c) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control,**
    - d) **CNDA Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness,**
    - e) **CNDA Guideline: Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy;** and,
    - f) **CNDA Guideline: Medical Technologies and Devices.**
  - 12) ensuring that when consenting to supervise a student or regulated member they must:
    - a) be on site with the student or regulated member and available to assist while the student or regulated member is performing the restricted activity,
    - b) be authorized to perform the restricted activity being performed by the student or regulated member,
    - c) have a minimum of one year's experience in performing the restricted activity, and
    - d) be in accordance with the **CNDA Administrative Policy: Supervision.**

### Expected Outcomes

Patients are satisfied that:

- naturopathic doctors perform hyperbaric oxygen therapy safely, competently and ethically.

### Related Documents

*Health Professions Act*

*Health Professions Restricted Activity Regulation*

*Naturopaths Profession Regulation*

CNDA Code of Ethics

CNDA Continuing Competence Program Rules

CNDA Standard of Practice: Records Keeping  
CNDA Standard of Practice: General  
CNDA Standard of Practice: Consent  
CNDA Standard of Practice: Emergency Readiness  
CNDA Standard of Practice: Infectious Disease Prevention and Control  
CNDA Guideline: Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy  
CNDA Guideline: Medical Devices and New Technologies  
CNDA Administrative Policy: Supervision

