

WHAT IS HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY?

Hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) therapy is the delivery of 100% oxygen to a patient who is pressurized in a hyperbaric chamber. At standard treatment pressures, HBO therapy raises the pO₂ (oxygen pressure) in the patient's plasma and body tissues 10-15 times higher than for a patient breathing room air at normal atmospheric pressure.

The physiological benefits of HBO therapy vary depending upon the condition being treated; these may include:

- Increased oxygen delivery to hypoxic tissue.
- Stimulate small blood vessel growth in ischemic tissues.
- Improve wound healing, including fibroblast proliferation.
- Accelerated control of infection through direct action on microbes and their toxins, as well as enhancement of neutrophilic killing capacity.
- Preserve damaged tissue, including reduction of edema and enhanced oxygen delivery to support injured cells.
- Reduce or eliminate inert gas bubbles obstructing flow in blood vessels.

Depending on the condition being treated, HBO therapy can be the primary therapeutic intervention or adjunctive to other interventions such as antibiotics, surgery, or best practice wound care.

Basic scientific and clinical research articles are available upon request. Further information is available at our website: www.hbotclinics.com. Referring physicians are encouraged to consult with a hyperbaric physician on any atypical problems or uncertain diagnoses.

INDICATIONS TREATED AT HBOT CLINICS AND BASIS FOR REFERRAL

Triage Category	Including but not limited to	Process	Approximate time to be seen
Emergent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decompression illness (serious) • Compartment syndrome (limb threatening) • Necrotizing soft tissue infection (critical) • Carbon monoxide poisoning and smoke inhalation (serious) • Cerebral arterial gas embolism • Exceptional blood loss (anemia) • Crush injury (limb-threatening) • Clostridial myonecrosis (gas gangrene) 	Contact 24-hour emergency line: 403-509-4742	Same day
Urgent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decompression illness (minor symptoms) • Crush injury or other acute traumatic ischemia (non-limb threatening) • Necrotizing soft tissue infections (non-critical) • Certain invasive fungal infections (e.g., Mucormycosis) • Hemorrhagic cystitis (significant blood loss) • Thermal burns (serious) 	Fax referral to: 403-509-4744	Within 1 – 2 days
Routine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selected non-healing wounds (e.g., diabetic lower extremity) • Osteoradionecrosis • Soft tissue radiation injury 	Fax referral to: 403-509-4744	Within 1 week

Specific co-morbidity information to identify if relevant:		Specific symptom/patient information to identify if relevant:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes • COPD • Asthma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malignancy • Chronic ear or sinus condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of pneumothorax • Smoking • History of chest surgery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemotherapy (specify) • History of seizures
Specific tests/investigations required to support triage:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide all considered relevant by the referring source. • HBOT Clinics encourages referring physicians to discuss atypical problems or uncertain diagnoses with the hyperbaric physician responsible for triage (403-509-4740). 			

ABOUT HBOT CLINICS

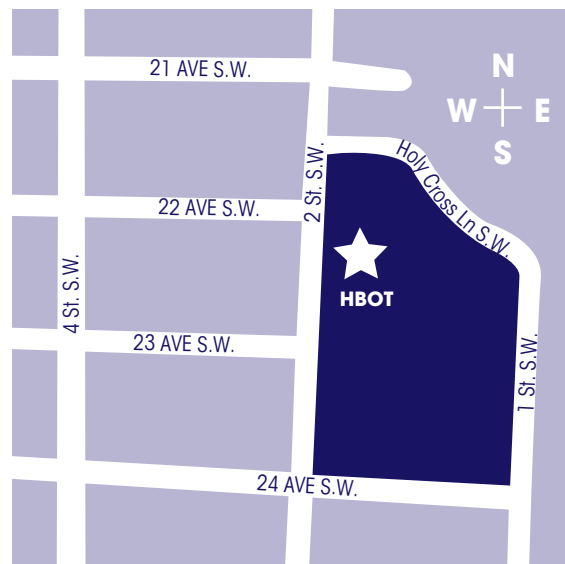
HBOT Clinics is the contract provider of hyperbaric medicine to Alberta Health Services for Calgary and southern Alberta. The clinic offers three monoplace (single person) chambers which can be pressurized to a level best suited for the patient's treatment plan (usually between 2 to 3 times normal atmospheric pressure). The facility is equipped to handle Handi-Bus, Patient Transport, and Ambulance.

HBOT Clinics is fully accredited by the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta. HBOT Clinics treats only those indications approved by Alberta Health & Wellness, which are covered by the provincial health insurance plan.

The staff at HBOT Clinics are fully trained in hyperbaric medicine and maintain an active involvement in its clinical applications. All of the patient care staff have completed courses certified by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS). HBOT Clinics' physicians have received training and are experienced in patient treatment with pressurized oxygen, and the technicians are experienced in the operation of pressurized chambers.

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For more information please visit
www.hbotclinics.com

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy
PHYSICIAN GUIDE