

Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) Therapy

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1.0 CPT¹ PROCEDURE CODE

99183

2.0 DESCRIPTION

Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) therapy is a mode of medical treatment in which the patient is entirely enclosed in a pressure chamber breathing oxygen at a pressure greater than one atmosphere.

3.0 POLICY

3.1 Benefits are allowed for HBO therapy only when provided by an approved institutional provider, such as a hospital.

3.2 HBO therapy (CPT¹ procedure code 99183) may be covered for the following indications:

- Decompression sickness
- Carbon monoxide poisoning
- Air or gas embolism
- Profound blood loss, when blood transfusion cannot be accomplished.

3.3 HBO therapy (CPT¹ procedure code 99183) may be covered as an adjunct to standard therapy for the following indications:

- Acute soft tissue injury (i.e., crush injury, compartment syndrome, acute traumatic peripheral ischemia, blast injury)
- Clostridial myositis and myonecrosis
- Compromised skin grafts and/or flaps
- Chronic, severe, and/or gangrenous diabetic foot wounds
- Ostoradionecrosis
- Osteomyelitis refractory to standard medical management

3.4 HBO may be covered for other indications when documented by reliable evidence as safe, effective, and comparable or superior to standard care (proven).

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4.0 EXCLUSIONS

- 4.1** HBO therapy for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) is unproven.
- 4.2** HBO therapy for stroke is unproven.
- 4.3** HBO therapy for cerebral palsy is unproven.
- 4.4** HBO therapy for autism is unproven.
- 4.5** HBO therapy as an adjunct therapy for the treatment of thermal burns is unproven.
- 4.6** Topical application of oxygen is unproven.

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