



Hyperbaric Medicine Introductory Course Approval Process Overview

Introduction

The American College of Hyperbaric Medicine approves and endorses hyperbaric educational courses/activities that satisfy prescribed requirements and comply with standards as established by Medicare for the training of physicians and providers credentialed to supervise hyperbaric oxygen therapy. ACHM approved curriculum must consist of a minimum of 40 hours of training dedicated to the practice of hyperbaric medicine. Significant focus must be devoted to the clinical aspects of hyperbaric oxygen therapy as it applies to wound care. The educational experience must include didactic lectures (provided via classroom or online platforms) as well as practical sessions (typically accomplished at the facility where the clinician will practice). The intent of this practicum is to allow the student to become familiar with utilization and operation of hyperbaric chambers at their hospital or facility, as well as to learn the emergency procedures and operational protocols for other support equipment located onsite that would actually be used under the supervision of the provider. The ACHM recommends that the practical sessions be provided via preceptorship allowing for direct student interaction, discussion, clarification and reinforcement of didactic concepts as well as technical or clinical applications.

Hyperbaric Medicine Introductory Course Approval Application

- ✓ Application: The Hyperbaric Medicine Introductory Course Approval Application can be obtained directly from the ACHM or downloaded from the ACHM Website (ACHM.org). The application must be fully completed and submitted with all required documentation (NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS prior to the planned educational activity).
- ✓ Agenda: The Course Agenda should include a listing of the lectures or educational sessions by day. Specific lecture/session times, stretch breaks and lunch breaks should be included.
- ✓ Syllabus: The Course Syllabus should include overall course learning objectives, as well as specific learning objectives for each lecture/session. A copy of lecture/session specific questions (or copy of the final exam) must be provided.
- ✓ Content: A copy of ALL Course Presentations must be provided. Copies of the actual PowerPoint Presentations or PDF copies in six slide format are acceptable.
- ✓ Faculty. The names of all faculty must be submitted along with a current CV.
- ✓ Disclosure: Each faculty must submit an ACHM Disclosure. The Disclosure submitted as part of the ACCME or ACGME application may be utilized.

Content

The basic curriculum should include the following Content Domains:

- Historical Perspective of Hyperbaric Medicine
- Physics and Gas Laws
- Mechanisms of Hyperbaric Oxygen
- Accepted Indications and Treatment Protocols
 - ✓ Air or Gas Embolism
 - ✓ Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
 - ✓ Clostridial Myositis and Myonecrosis (Gas Gangrene)
 - ✓ Crush Injury, Compartment Syndrome or other Acute Traumatic Ischemias
 - ✓ Decompression Sickness
 - ✓ Enhancement of Healing in Select Problem Wounds
 - ✓ Extreme Anemia
 - ✓ Intracranial Abscess
 - ✓ Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infections
 - ✓ Osteomyelitis (Refractory)
 - ✓ Delayed Radiation Injury (Soft Tissue and Bony Necrosis)
 - ✓ Skin Flaps & Grafts (Compromised)
 - ✓ Thermal Burns
 - ✓ Idiopathic Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss
 - ✓ Central Retinal Artery Occlusion
- Off-label and Experimental Indications
- Patient Assessment and Management
- Wound Care
- Infection Control
- Documentation & Reimbursement
- Quality Assurance
- Side Effects and Contraindications
- Management of Complications
- Hyperbaric Chamber Systems
- Hyperbaric Safety and Emergency Procedures
- Administrative / Management Issues
- Professional Societies and Certifications
- Clinical and Technical Practicum

ACHM Board of Directors Approval

Once the application has been submitted, it will be reviewed by a representative of the ACHM Educational Committee. The review findings and a recommendation will be submitted to the ACHM BOD for final Approval or Non-Approval. The Sponsor of the Application will be notified of the decision within 30 days of submission of the application. ACHM Approval allows for use of the ACHM Logo as well as the statement “This Educational Activity has been Reviewed and Approved by the American College of Hyperbaric Medicine” to be printed on certificates of completion.

Logistics

The Sponsor of the Introductory Course or Educational Activity will assign a Course Coordinator or Contact Person. The name of the person with contact information (if different than the person listed on the application) will be provided to the ACHM. Within 7 days of completion of Introductory Course or Educational Activity, the Course Coordinator will provide a listing of students (along with current email addresses) that attended and successfully completed the activity. The ACHM will contact all of the participants via email and request that they complete a short survey. The intent of the survey is to validate that the activity achieved high educational standards and that the faculty met content objectives, disclosed potential conflicts and avoided bias. At least 75% of the students must respond to the survey to maintain ACHM Approval Status. The results of the survey will be shared with the Course Coordinator.

Fee

The fee for ACHM Approval of hyperbaric educational courses/activities is \$500. This fee is per event and includes the initial review of the application, participant survey and Sponsor follow-up. ACHM Corporate Sponsors may enjoy discounted fee structures.

Additional Reminders

Once course or activity has been approved, The ACHM requires notification of any changes in the Faculty, Content, Syllabus or Content. These changes must be reviewed and approved prior to the event. Minor changes require a minimum of 2 week notification for review and approval, extensive activity revisions require 30 day notification and additional fees may be required.

It is the responsibility of the Sponsor to provide the ACHM with updated Faculty Disclosure information in the event that the financial disclosure information should change for any faculty or planning committee member.

If the course or activity is offered with open registration, the ACHM will list the activity on the ACHM Website if requested by the Sponsor.