

WITH DISTINCTION GUIDANCE

There are nine distinct focus areas with varying weightings (ranging from 1 to 2 points) used in determining WD status. The surveyor's recommended point value for each focus area reflects whether the WD criterion is fully met or not; no partial points are awarded. Additionally, the recommended point value for each focus area should represent the consensus of the surveyor team. To achieve WD accreditation, a facility must score at least 6 out of 10.5 points. For criteria #1-#5, the facility must actively meet them at the time of the survey. For criteria #6-#9, the facility must have met them at some point within the past three years (or four years for facilities previously accredited with distinction). Meeting criterion #1 is mandatory for all facilities seeking WD recognition. The remaining points can be earned by fulfilling any combination of the other eight criteria. A facility can meet all the WD criteria but still not receive WD; the Accreditation Committee (AC) makes its decision based on the complete survey results, not solely on WD status.

The new WD criteria and associated point values are as follows:

#1. The hyperbaric facility Medical Director is **One** of the following:

- Board certification in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine by ABEM, ABPM, or the Osteopathic Conjoint Committee.
- Completion of an ACGME-approved or equivalent fellowship in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine, even if board certification was not obtained or not renewed.
- Certificate of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine issued by UHMS.
- Designation as a Fellow (FUHM) by the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (1 point)

#2. Through either direct provision or established formal procedures for inter-facility cooperation, ensure that all patients being seen and treated by the HBO2 facility seeking accreditation are afforded, when medically indicated, timely access to HBO2 therapy on a 24-hour per day, seven-day per week basis. (2 points)

#3. As evidenced by patient treatment records documenting the incorporation of critical care monitoring, ventilator management and/or IV infusion support during the performance of hyperbaric treatments and, concurrently, a review of existing provider credentialing files, the HBO2 facility has an adequately equipped chamber and the appropriately trained and experienced staff to provide HBO2 care to critically ill patients. (1.5 points)

#4. All eligible nurses and technicians providing clinical HBO2 care to patients are CHRN/CHT certified. (1 point)

#5. Active hyperbaric facility engagement in a Quality Improvement program (to include Process Improvement) that is:

1. Initiated by the hyperbaric facility;
2. Designed to create improvements in the quality of hyperbaric patient care or safety; and
3. Evidenced by accumulated metrics, data, or impact assessments from ongoing or completed Quality Improvement projects. (1 point)

#6. Members of the hyperbaric facility deliver HBO2-focused presentations at local, regional, national or international conferences. (1 point)

#7. Hyperbaric medicine-related publication in textbooks, peer-reviewed journals, or other professionally referenced documents. (1 point)

#8. Provision of instruction in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine. To satisfy this criterion, one or more of the following must be in place and exercised on a recurring basis:

1. An ACGME-approved Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Fellowship; or
2. Educational programs that support clinical rotations, clerkships or electives for students or staff (i.e., physicians, nurses, technologists, respiratory therapists, etc.), so long as the programs have:
 - a. A developed course content;
 - b. Are approved by the governing body or through a collaborative education agreement with an academic institution; and
 - c. Are overseen and presented by qualified instructors (i.e., UHM board-certified physicians, certified hyperbaric registered nurses, certified hyperbaric technologists); or
3. Educational courses, lectures, and presentations that either:
 - a. Are ACGME-, NBDHMT-, or UHMS-approved for CEU/CME credits in Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine; or
 - b. Provide training that can be applied in support of formal qualification by a UHM certifying board (e.g., ABMS, NBDHMT). (1 point)

#9. Research in the field of hyperbaric medicine is conducted both:

1. Under an IRB-approved human use, IACUC-approved animal use, or institutionally-approved equipment test and evaluation protocol; and
2. With the intent to publish or present in UHM professional venues. (1 point)

Direct questions to the HFA office of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society at derall@uhms.org or beth@uhms.org.