UHMS POSITION STATEMENT

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Title: Recognition of the Hyperbaric Certification Commission of the hyperbaric safety certification HC-S or HC-S*D for physicians, nurses, and technicians

Intro: The Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS) Accreditation Council (AC) believes **voluntary** professional certification in hyperbaric safety can complement education, competency assessment, and professional development.

Abstract: The UHMS Hyperbaric Facility Accreditation Council acknowledges the Hyperbaric Certification Commission's commitment to advancing education and professional competency through the Hyperbaric Certification in Safety (HC-S) and Hyperbaric Certification in Safety with Distinction (HC-S*D) credentials.

The Accreditation Council recognizes that a strong culture of safety is fundamental to delivering quality hyperbaric medicine. The HC-S certification provides a standardized way to demonstrate knowledge of hyperbaric safety principles, including risk assessment, regulatory compliance, emergency preparedness, quality management, and operational best practices. By promoting competency in these critical areas, the certification supports the continued development of healthcare professionals responsible for maintaining safe hyperbaric operations.

While HC-S certification is not required for UHMS Hyperbaric Facility Accreditation, the Accreditation Council supports educational initiatives that strengthen safety leadership and encourage ongoing professional development. Facilities are encouraged to invest in education and competency-based training that enhances patient safety, regulatory compliance, and continuous quality improvement.

The UHMS Hyperbaric Facility AccreditCertificationCertificationation Council believes voluntary professional certifications, such as the HC-S credential, advance hyperbaric medicine by fostering a knowledgeable workforce dedicated to excellence in safety and patient care.

Rationale: Hyperbaric operations involve unique safety risks requiring knowledge of fire prevention, oxygen-enriched environments, emergency procedures, risk management, and safe chamber operations. **The Council recognizes that a standardized safety credential may provide an additional way to demonstrate knowledge in these areas. Certification does not replace facility-specific training, competency validation, professional licensure, or applicable codes, regulations, and manufacturer requirements.**

Conclusions and Recommendations: The UHMS Accreditation Council recognizes HC-S and HC-S*D as **voluntary** professional certifications that may support individual development in hyperbaric safety. The Council encourages facilities to promote continuing education, competency-based training, and strong safety leadership. HC-S or HC-S*D should not be considered a substitute for UHMS facility accreditation, required credentials, facility-specific competency validation, or compliance with applicable requirements.

Associated Documents: UHMS Hyperbaric Facility Accreditation Manual; applicable UHMS guidance; Hyperbaric Certification Commission HC-S and HC-S*D certification information; and applicable NFPA, FDA, ASME/PVHO, CMS, OSHA, and other governing requirements.