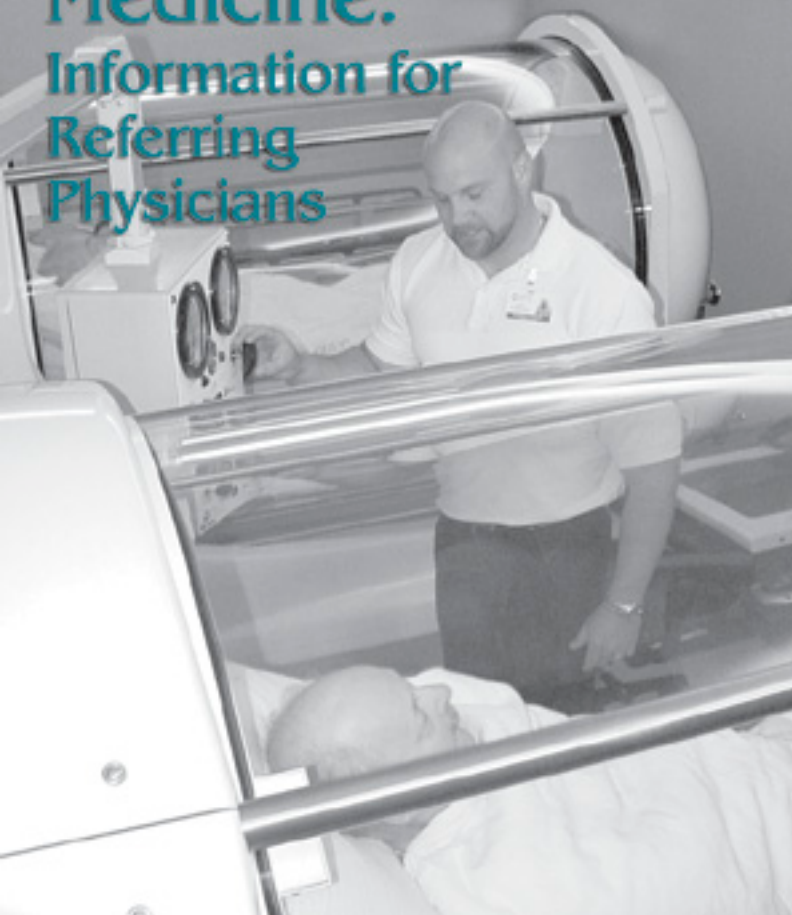


# Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine: Information for Referring Physicians



**Great  
River**

WOUND AND  
HYPERBARIC CLINIC

A service of Great River Medical Center

**West Burlington, Iowa**



## **An Effective Resource for Problem Wound Management**

The Great River Wound and Hyperbaric Clinic at the Center for Rehabilitation is dedicated to providing sophisticated outpatient clinical wound care and hyperbaric medicine. We want you to think of our clinic as an extension of your practice. You maintain the care of your patient's underlying disease and continue to provide for your patient's overall care. The clinic's staff will treat the wound.

When you refer a patient, he or she meets with our staff for a consultation, including an examination and a medical history evaluation. As a team, you and our wound-care team establish a treatment plan. Information regarding the patient's progress, along with updated photos of the wound, will be regularly submitted to you. You will remain an active member of the wound-care management team, and the patient remains under your care.

## **Our Specialization — Advancing Wound Care**

The coordinated use of a variety of clinical treatments, debridement, medicines, dressings and support services to treat chronic wounds has proven highly effective in facilitating the healing process. Approximately 20 percent of wound-care patients treated in the clinic may become candidates for hyperbaric medicine and may benefit significantly from this adjunctive treatment. Clinical wound care and hyperbaric medicine, when available

together, provide physicians and nurses with advanced treatment alternatives.

We will work with you to achieve the best possible experience for your patients. On completion of their wound-care regimen, we will return your patients to your care.

## **When to Use the Clinic and Which Patients Will Benefit Most**


The staff at the Great River Wound and Hyperbaric Clinic specializes in the treatment of acute and chronic nonhealing wounds. Some of the indications for wound therapy are:

- Burns
- Ischemic ulcers
- Neuropathic ulcers
- Pressure ulcers
- Surgical wounds
- Traumatic wounds
- Vasculitis
- Venous insufficiency

## **Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy and Approved Indications for Treatment**

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) is a treatment in which the patient breathes 100 percent oxygen while enclosed in a pressurized chamber at greater-than-normal atmospheric pressure.





While breathing pure oxygen, the patient's blood plasma becomes saturated, carrying 20 to 30 times the normal amount of oxygen to the body's tissues. The result is that the body's natural wound-healing mechanisms, which are oxygen-dependent, function more efficiently. Another effect of HBOT is vasoconstriction. The benefit of vasoconstriction is a reduction in posttraumatic edema. In effect, HBOT maintains oxygen delivery, while blood flow is improved in the microcirculation by the edema-reducing effect of vasoconstriction.

HBOT treatments are given in the most up-to-date hyperbaric chambers with a proven reputation for patient comfort and satisfaction.

## Approved Indication for HBOT

The following is a list of approved indications for outpatient HBOT that are reimbursed by Medicare, HMOs and other insurance carriers:

### *Non-emergent HBOT*

- Chronic refractory osteomyelitis
- Diabetic wounds of the lower extremities
- Osteoradionecrosis
- Preservation of compromised skin grafts and flaps
- Soft-tissue radionecrosis

### *Emergent or non-emergent HBOT (dependent on the patient's hemodynamic situation)*

- Acute peripheral arterial insufficiency
- Crush injury/acute traumatic peripheral ischemia

- Progressive necrotizing infections (necrotizing fasciitis)

## Addressing a Growing Problem with Evidence-based Medicine


Statistics show a tremendous need for wound-care treatment. Each year, approximately 5 million Americans will suffer from chronic wounds caused by diabetes, circulatory problems and many other conditions. Compelling statistics include:

- 1 million people have venous stasis (circulatory) ulcers.
- 1.5 million people who suffer from chronic wounds have diabetic ulcers.
- 15 percent of all diabetics will develop chronic wounds.
- 2.5 million people have pressure ulcers.
- Patients with diabetes have a 15-fold increase in the risk of amputation, and approximately 60,000 diabetics undergo amputation each year.

But there is hope. Studies have shown that wound-care treatment facilities have reduced amputation rates significantly and reduced the length of hospital stays by 24 percent. The American Diabetes Association estimates that diabetes-related amputation could be reduced by 50 percent if patients were routinely tested for neuropathy, educated to prevent injury or complications and provided related ancillary services.

We expect our clinic to maintain healing rates in excess of 80 percent. Supported by a powerful database, we have sub-





stantial statistical information to help continuously improve our clinical process and document our healing outcomes.

## Meet Our Team of Professionals

The health-care team at the Great River Wound and Hyperbaric Clinic includes:

- Physicians specially trained in wound management and hyperbaric medicine
- Wound-care nurses
- Highly trained clinical hyperbaric staff
- Health-care educators
- Administrative staff

## Individualized Treatment Plans

With your help, the team of specialized physicians, nurses and staff at the Great River Wound and Hyperbaric Clinic will provide a comprehensive evaluation of your patient's wound. They will use this information to formulate an individualized treatment plan using the most current, clinically effective techniques for wound healing.

The clinic uses the newest clinical tools in wound healing along with traditional clinical practices including:

- Bioengineered skin grafting
- Compression therapy
- Debridement
- Edema management
- Hyperbaric oxygen therapy
- Noninvasive vascular assessment
- Prescriptive growth factors
- Wound dressings

Patient care at the Great River Wound and Hyperbaric Clinic will focus on a whole-body approach to wound healing including:

- Diabetic teaching
- Nutritional assessment and counseling
- Patient and caregiver counseling
- Special needs for pressure relief including beds, seat cushions and footwear
- Therapy services

## **For More Information**

The health-care team at the Great River Wound and Hyperbaric Clinic is here to help you and your patients in their healing process. If you would like more information, please call the Center for Rehabilitation at (319) 768-4100.





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