INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide Area of Focused Competence (AFC) directors with the AFC-Standards of Accreditation as they relate to the AFC program in Hyperbaric Medicine. It should be read in conjunction with the Competency Training Requirements for the Area of Focused Competence in Hyperbaric Medicine and the General Standards for Areas of Focused Competence (AFC) Programs – C Standards.

A university wishing to have an accredited program in Hyperbaric Medicine must an accredited program in at least one of the following: Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Critical Care Medicine.

STANDARD C1: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

There must be an appropriate administrative structure for each Hyperbaric Medicine program.

Please refer to Standard C1 in the General Standards for Areas of Focused Competence (AFC) Programs – C Standards for the interpretation of this standard.

The AFC director must have specialty expertise in Hyperbaric Medicine, as evidenced by a minimum of five (5) years practice experience in the discipline.

STANDARD C2: RESOURCES

There must be sufficient resources including teaching faculty, the number and variety of patients, physical and technical resources, as well as the supporting facilities and services necessary to provide the opportunity for all AFC trainees in the AFC program to achieve the educational objectives and receive full training as defined by the Hyperbaric Medicine requirements.

1. Teaching Faculty

There must be a sufficient number of qualified staff to teach, supervise, and assess the AFC trainees.

Teaching faculty must be recognized as having experience and expertise related to clinical Hyperbaric Medicine and/or diving medicine, as relevant to the program being offered. At
least one faculty member must have a minimum of three years clinical experience at a medical hyperbaric treatment facility.

In addition to the above, for the diving medicine stream, at least one faculty member must meet the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) requirements for a level 3 or 4 diving physician.

2. Number and Variety of Patients

There must be a sufficient number and variety of patients to meet the educational needs of the AFC trainees.

For the clinical hyperbaric medicine stream the experience must be related primarily to the treatment of approved medical conditions. This must include ambulatory and hospitalized patients with elective and emergent indications for hyperbaric exposure as well as patients with critical illness. The experience with critically ill patients may be simulated.

For the diving medicine stream, there must be divers and personnel with exposure to both surface supply and decompression diving.

3. Clinical Services Specific to Hyperbaric Medicine

The training program must provide experience in a level 1 or level 2 medical hyperbaric treatment facility as defined by the guidelines produced by the Canadian Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Association (CUHMA), and which meets Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards. The facility must fulfil any accreditation requirements determined by the applicable province or health authority.

There must be ambulatory clinics for the assessment of new consultations as well as follow-up patients.

For the clinical hyperbaric medicine stream, there must be access to referrals for hospitalized patients, including patients who are critically ill.

4. Physical and Technical Resources

The hyperbaric operations associated with the program must utilize breathing gases certified to CSA, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), European Standards (EN), or International Marine Contractors’ Association (IMCA) standards.

The training program must have access to multiplace and monoplace chamber facilities. All multiplace and monoplace chambers and related equipment and operations must comply with the requirements of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), the applicable provincial jurisdiction, and Health Canada.

For the diving medicine stream, the program must have access to adequately varied diving operations and equipment, including surface supply and decompression diving. Diving or other hyperbaric operations must comply with the requirements of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and any applicable military, scientific or civilian regulatory jurisdictions such as those of a Province or Territory or applicable offshore authority (such as the
5. Supporting Facilities and Services

There must be access to the following:

- Comprehensive clinical laboratories for diagnostic testing
- Accredited laboratories for drug testing as applicable to the occupational health setting
- Diagnostic imaging facilities
- Diagnostic vascular laboratories
- Cardiac testing including but not limited to exercise stress tests and echocardiography
- Pulmonary function testing
- Audiology

Access to consultative services in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery must be available.

In addition, for the clinical hyperbaric medicine stream, there must be access to consultation services in wound care, orthotics, ophthalmology, anesthesiology, dermatology, infectious diseases, internal medicine and/or endocrinology, general surgery, orthopaedic surgery, plastic surgery, vascular surgery as well as critical care, gynecology, nephrology, radiation oncology, rheumatology and urology.

For the diving medicine stream, there must be access to services in occupational medicine.

**STANDARD C3: EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

There must be a defined educational program that includes clinical, academic, and scholarly content relevant to Hyperbaric Medicine. The program must be designed to ensure that each AFC trainee is able to achieve all the competencies as outlined in the AFC-specific Competency Training Requirements.

In addition to the General Standards for Areas of Focused Competence Programs, the following requirement applies (or requirements apply):

Simulation must be used to ensure adequate experience in uncommon or unusual situations related to the particular stream(s). The simulation training may be provided within the training program or through an accredited course provided by CUHMA or other recognized hyperbaric medicine organization.
STANDARD C4: COMPETENCY-BASED ASSESSMENT OF TRAINEE PERFORMANCE

There must be mechanisms in place to ensure the systematic collection and interpretation of assessment data on each trainee enrolled in the Hyperbaric Medicine program.

Please refer to Standard C4 in the General Standards for Areas of Focused Competence (AFC) Programs – C Standards for the interpretation of this standard.

In addition to the General Standards for Areas of Focused Competence Programs, the following requirement applies (or requirements apply):

- Assessment processes must meet the requirements of the Hyperbaric Medicine portfolio.
- The assessment process must include an analysis of the trainee log book as well as other tools to assess resident competencies.
- Simulation may be used to ensure adequate assessment of uncommon or unusual situations related to the particular stream(s).

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