

Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs in Hyperbaric Medicine

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INTRODUCTION

The *Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence (AFC) Programs in Hyperbaric Medicine* are a national set of standards maintained by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for the evaluation and accreditation of Hyperbaric Medicine AFC programs. The standards aim to provide an interpretation of the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* as they relate to the accreditation of AFC programs in Hyperbaric Medicine, and to ensure these programs adequately prepare AFC trainees to meet the health care needs of their patient population(s) upon completion of training.

The standards include requirements applicable to AFC programs and learning sites and have been written in alignment with the standards organization framework used in the general standards that aims to provide clarity of expectations, while maintaining flexibility for innovation.

These standards are intended to be read in conjunction with the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*, as well as the discipline-specific documents for Hyperbaric Medicine. In instances where the indicators reflected in the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* have been modified within this document to reflect a discipline-specific expectation, the indicator as reflected in this document takes precedence.

STANDARDS

DOMAIN: PROGRAM ORGANIZATION

The *Program Organization* domain includes standards focused on the structural and functional aspects of the AFC program, which support and provide structure to meet the general and discipline-specific standards of accreditation for AFC programs.

STANDARD 1: There is an appropriate organizational structure, leadership and administrative personnel to effectively support the AFC program, teachers and trainees.

Refer to Standard 1 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

DOMAIN: EDUCATION PROGRAM

The *Education Program* domain includes standards focused on the planning, design, and delivery of the AFC program, with the overarching outcome to ensure that the AFC program prepares trainees to be competent for practice in the discipline.

STANDARD 2: Trainees are prepared for independent practice in the AFC discipline.

Refer to Standard 2 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* in addition to the indicators detailed below.

Element 2.1: The AFC program is designed to facilitate trainees' attainment of the required competencies.

Requirement(s)	Indicator(s)
2.1.1: The AFC program's design and delivery is based on the standards of training for the AFC discipline.	2.1.1.6: Simulation is 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 the Canadian Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Association (CUHMA) or other recognized hyperbaric medicine organization.

Element 2.2: There is an effective, organized system of trainee assessment.

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Requirement(s)	Indicator(s)
2.2.1: The AFC program has a planned, defined and implemented system of assessment.	2.2.1.3 (modified): The system of assessment includes identification and use of appropriate assessment tools tailored to the experiences and competencies being assessed, including use of the trainee log book; simulation may be used to ensure adequate assessment of uncommon or unusual situations related to the particular stream(s).

DOMAIN: RESOURCES

The *Resources* domain includes standards focused on ensuring that the AFC program’s clinical, physical, technical, financial, and human resources are sufficient for the delivery of the education program and, ultimately, to prepare trainees for practice in the discipline.

STANDARD 3: The delivery and administration of the AFC program is supported by appropriate resources.

Refer to Standard 3 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs* in addition to the indicators detailed below.

Element 3.1: The AFC program has the clinical, physical, technical, and financial resources to provide all trainees with the educational experiences needed to acquire all competencies.

Requirement(s)	Indicator(s)
3.1.1: The patient population is adequate to ensure that trainees attain required competencies.	<p>3.1.1.2: The patient population is sufficient to support the clinical hyperbaric medicine stream, the experiences of which are expected to be related primarily to the treatment of approved medical conditions, including 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.</p> <p>3.1.1.3: To support the provision of the diving medicine stream, there are divers and personnel with exposure to both surface supply and decompression diving.</p>
3.1.2: Clinical and consultative services and facilities are effectively organized and adequate to ensure that trainees attain the required competencies.	<p>3.1.2.5: The AFC program has access to 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 fulfills any accreditation requirements determined by the applicable province or health authority.</p> <p>3.1.2.6: The AFC program has access to ambulatory clinics for the assessment of new consultations and follow-up patients.</p> <p>3.1.2.7: The AFC program has access to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive clinical laboratories for diagnostic testing; • Accredited laboratories for drug testing as applicable to the occupational health setting; • Diagnostic imaging facilities;

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- Diagnostic vascular laboratories;
- Cardiac testing including but not limited to exercise stress tests and echocardiography;
- Pulmonary function testing;
- Audiology.

3.1.2.8: The AFC program has access to consultative services in otolaryngology and head and neck surgery.

3.1.2.9: For the clinical hyperbaric medicine stream, the AFC program has access to referrals for hospitalized patients, including patients who are critically ill.

3.1.2.10: For the clinical hyperbaric medicine stream, the AFC program has 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.

3.1.2.11: For the diving medicine stream, the AFC program has access to services in occupational medicine.

3.1.3: The AFC program has the necessary financial, physical, and technical resources.

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

3.1.3.6: The AFC program has access to multiplace and monoplace chamber facilities; all multiplace and monoplace chambers and related equipment and operations comply with the requirements of the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), the applicable provincial jurisdiction, and Health Canada.

3.1.3.7: For the diving medicine stream, the AFC program has access to adequately varied diving operations and equipment for the diving medicine stream, including surface supply and decompression diving; diving or other hyperbaric operations 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 Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board or the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board).

3.1.4: There is appropriate liaison with other programs and teaching services to ensure that trainees experience the breadth of the discipline.

3.1.4.2: The university sponsors an accredited program in at least one of the following: Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Critical Care Medicine.

Element 3.2: The AFC program has the appropriate human resources to provide all trainees with the required educational experiences.

Requirement(s)	Indicator(s)
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3.2.1: Teachers appropriately implement the curriculum, supervise and assess trainees, contribute to the program, and role model effective practice.

3.2.1.1 (modified): The number, credentials, competencies, and scope of practice of the teachers are adequate to provide the breadth and depth of the discipline, including required clinical teaching, academic teaching, appropriate research, and assessment and feedback to trainees. Teaching faculty have relevant experience and expertise related to Clinical Hyperbaric Medicine and/or Diving Medicine, including at least one faculty member with a minimum of three years clinical experience at a medical hyperbaric treatment facility and, for the diving medicine stream, at least one faculty member who meets the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) requirements for a level 3 or 4 diving physician.

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

DOMAIN: LEARNERS, TEACHERS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

The *Learners, Teachers, and Administrative Personnel* domain includes standards focused on safety, wellness, and support for learners and teachers.

STANDARD 4: Safety and wellness are promoted throughout the learning environment.

Refer to Standard 4 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

STANDARD 5: Trainees are treated fairly throughout their progression through the AFC program.

Refer to Standard 5 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

STANDARD 6: Teachers effectively deliver and support all aspects of the AFC program.

Refer to Standard 6 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

DOMAIN: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The *Continuous Improvement* domain includes standards focused on ensuring a systematic approach to the evaluation and improvement of the AFC program.

STANDARD 7: There is continuous improvement of the educational experiences to improve the AFC program and ensure trainees are prepared for independent practice in the discipline.

Refer to Standard 7 and its various components within the *General Standards of Accreditation for Areas of Focused Competence Programs*.

Drafted – AFC Working Group (or Subcommittee or Committee) and Office of Specialty Education
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Approved – based on the version approved by the Specialty Standards Review Committee January
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