

Position Statements on Practice

Assessing Patient Care in a Hyperbaric Oxygen Unit

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Position:

Since hyperbaric oxygen administration creates an environment that either directly treats cardiopulmonary impairments or indirectly impairs normal cardiopulmonary function by treating other ailments (i.e. wound care), assessment of treatment effectiveness is within the definition of respiratory care. In this environment, the respiratory care provider may be within their legal scope of care to assess treatment effectiveness in accordance with their training and competency, excluding procedures such as, wound care that are not within the scope of respiratory care.

Section 4761.01 of the Revised Code defines “respiratory care” as:

"Respiratory care" means rendering or offering to render to individuals, groups, organizations, or the public any service involving the evaluation of cardiopulmonary function, the treatment of cardiopulmonary impairment, the assessment of treatment effectiveness, and the care of patients with deficiencies and abnormalities associated with the cardiopulmonary system. The practice of respiratory care includes:

- (1) *Obtaining, analyzing, testing, measuring, and monitoring blood and gas samples in the determination of cardiopulmonary parameters and related physiologic data, including flows, pressures, and volumes, and the use of equipment employed for this purpose;*
- (2) *Administering, monitoring, recording the results of, and instructing in the use of medical gases, aerosols, and bronchopulmonary hygiene techniques, including drainage, aspiration, and sampling, and applying, maintaining, and instructing in the use of artificial airways, ventilators, and other life support equipment employed in the treatment of cardiopulmonary impairment and provided in collaboration with other licensed health care professionals responsible for providing care;*

- (3) *Performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation and respiratory rehabilitation techniques;*
- (4) *Administering medications for the testing or treatment of cardiopulmonary impairment.*