



SPECIAL SKILLS PLACEMENT – HYPERBARIC MEDICINE

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of these guidelines is to outline the minimum criteria for accreditation of a special skills placement in hyperbaric medicine.

2. SUPERVISOR

The placement supervisor will be a specialist with qualifications in an appropriate critical care discipline (e.g. FACEM, FANZCA, FCICM) and have demonstrated minimum 3 years post Fellowship experience as a consultant in hyperbaric medicine.

3. PLACEMENT STRUCTURE

The placement lengths can be for three months (at 1.0 FTE), six months (at 0.5 FTE with a maximum equivalent to 3 months at 1.0 FTE).

Placement lengths of 6 months (0.5 FTE) at a comprehensive hyperbaric facility meet the time requirements for the Diploma of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine.

4. DEMOGRAPHICS

Training will occur at a comprehensive facility with a multiplace hyperbaric treatment chamber on site. The facility will see an adequate number of patients to enable the trainee to meet the minimum caseload requirements.

4.1 Staffing

Adequate qualified senior medical staffing will be available to provide on-site clinical supervision for trainees while performing duties in the hyperbaric unit.

4.2 Caseload

The individual trainee is required to have a minimum 40 patient encounters addressing any one of the placement learning objectives over a 3 month period (or pro-rata as required for FTE status). Suitable cases may include (but are not limited to) treatment of diving-related injuries, carbon monoxide poisoning, and management of poorly-healing wounds.

4.3 Acuity

It is recognised that the field of hyperbaric medicine encompasses substantial patient care outside of the hyperbaric chamber. In order to ensure adequate understanding of chamber operations, at least 50% of the patient encounters should involve care either inside the chamber or providing direct supervision when patients are under pressure inside the chamber.

5. LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The service must provide a formal structured local orientation/induction program for trainees, including occupational health and safety, and assessment of the trainee's fitness to enter the hyperbaric environment. Attendance at an introductory course to diving and hyperbaric medicine at another facility prior to commencing placement will be an advantage and it is mandatory that such formal education be completed by the end of the term.

Learning objectives will include, but are not limited to, developing knowledge and skills in the following:

- prehospital management and retrieval of the injured diver
- assessment of patient suitability for hyperbaric therapy
- hyperbaric chamber safety
- physics of diving and hyperbaric treatment
- prescription of safe, effective hyperbaric treatment protocols
- identification and treatment of barotrauma and other decompression illnesses
- wound healing with hyperbaric therapy
- treatment of injury caused by radiation therapy
- other applications of hyperbaric treatment
- research and trial design in a hyperbaric setting

6. ACTIVITIES / DUTIES

The activities/duties that a trainee undertakes within an ACEM-Hyperbaric Medicine placement must reconcile with the set learning objectives for the placement. For each learning objective, there should be documented activities/ duties being undertaken in order for the trainee to achieve the objective.

In addition to the formal orientation/induction program, trainees will receive regular instruction in hyperbaric medicine following a pre-defined structured curriculum over the duration of the placement.

Participation in the unit's research program is encouraged.

7. SUPERVISION AND ASSESSMENT

Regular contact with the placement supervisor is required throughout the placement.

For each activity/duty being undertaken to achieve a certain learning objective, it should be made clear as to how it will be demonstrated that the trainee has successfully met the objective during the placement.

A mid-placement assessment is required to review trainee progress against learning objectives.

During normal hours, the trainee will be under the direct supervision of the on-duty specialist or qualified delegate. After-hours, the on-duty/on-call specialist will be contactable and available to attend should the trainee require their direct support and/or assistance.

7.1 Learning Portfolio

The trainee is required to maintain a Learning Portfolio in which all learning outcomes are documented in the ACEM Learning and Development Plan (LDP). The trainee describes the activities they will perform to achieve the learning outcomes during their placement. These activities must include a logbook of patients encountered (see below). In addition, the following should be included in the LDP:

- a list of educational sessions delivered and/or attended
- a list of supervisor meetings
- any other related activities

At the end of the placement, the supervisor will sign off that the trainee’s LDP has been reviewed and displays sufficient evidence that all learning objectives have been attained, as evidence for successful completion of the placement.

7.2 In-Training Assessment (ITA)

An in-training assessment must be completed every three months. At the end of the rotation the trainee must be able to supply evidence (such as a log book) that the minimum number of patient encounters has been met (ie 40 patients or more).

8. DOCUMENT REVIEW

Timeframe for review: every two (2) years, or earlier if required.

8.1 Responsibilities

Document authorisation: Council of Education
 Document implementation: Accreditation Subcommittee
 Document maintenance: Manager Accreditation

8.2 Revision History

| Version | Date of Version | Pages revised / Brief Explanation of Revision |
|---------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| V01-0 | Feb 2016 | New |
| V01-1 | Sep 17 | Reference to “term” changed to “placement” as per regulation B |
| V02-0 | Jan 2020 | Review |
| V02-1 | Jul 2020 | Learning Needs Analysis (LNA) has been replaced with Learning and Development Plan (LDP) |