

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 516
(A-22)

Introduced by: Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society

Subject: Oppose “Mild Hyperbaric” Facilities from Delivering Unsupported Clinical Treatments

Referred to: Reference Committee E

1 Whereas, So called “mild hyperbaric facilities” have become numerous in the very recent past
2 consisting of at least 288 locations in 31 states in the United States; and
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4 Whereas, These centers are treating and charging clients mostly for scientifically unsupported
5 disease entities and conditions without any or with inadequate evidence and without intention to
6 analyze results and add to the compendium of medical knowledge; and
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8 Whereas, These centers take advantage of vulnerable populations including those suffering
9 from autism, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, and post-stroke injuries; and
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11 Whereas, These centers offer clients improvement in general health and wellness without any
12 substantiating science or even reasonably predicated mechanisms; and
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14 Whereas, When “mild hyperbaric” centers do treat conditions in which published experience and
15 scientific evidence support the use of hyperbaric oxygen, they fail to use time-tested protocols.
16 Typically, their treatments deliver pressures just over 1.0 ATA (atmospheres absolute) and less
17 than 1.4 ATA. They also fail to deliver inhaled oxygen concentrations near 100% oxygen to the
18 patient. Both of these fall very short of time-tested treatment parameters; and
19
20 Whereas, Treatments are offered without physician oversight or prescription, and without
21 appropriately trained staff; and
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23 Whereas, Treatments are delivered often in unsafe environments with inadequately trained staff
24 and without required safety and fire suppression equipment in chambers that are not FDA-
25 certified and for which no 510K application has been made; therefore be it
26
27 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association oppose the operation of “mild hyperbaric
28 facilities” unless and until effective treatments can be delivered in safe facilities with
29 appropriately trained staff including physician supervision and prescription and only when the
30 intervention has scientific support or rationale. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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