



SerenaGroup Newsletter



July 2020

SERENAGROUP MONTHLY UPDATE

ISSUE 29

The UHMS Associate Distinguished Service Award presented to Matt Schwyer, CQO



The Associate Distinguished Service "UHMSDSA" recognition is

presented to an individual Associate Member of the society whose professional activities and standing are deemed to be exceptional and deserving of the highest recognition we can bestow upon them . . . who have demonstrated devotion and significant time and effort to the administrative, clinical, mechanical, physiological, safety, technical practice, and/or advancement of the hyperbaric community while achieving the highest level of expertise in their respective field. . . demonstrating the professionalism and ethical standards embodied in this

recognition and the UHMS mission.

"We (SerenaGroup) are proud of Matt and his work with the UHMS. The award is well-deserved. I am sure there are many more accolades to follow."

-Dr. Thomas Serena

The year 2020 is proving to be one of the most challenging years our country has ever encountered. Congratulations on receiving this coveted award and thank you for your longtime support of the Undersea Hyperbaric Medical Society.



Kimberly Waters

July Blue Star Winner

"Kimberly is a true patient advocate and cares for her patients' wellbeing. She always puts her patients first." – St. Mary's Advanced Wound Care and Hyperbaric Program

SerenaGroup Centers are encouraged to recognize those around them who go above and beyond their job description. Recognizing hard work is a priority for SerenaGroup and we sincerely thank those who continue to be compassionate about their work in healing wound care and hyperbaric medicine patients.



HYPERBARIC COURSE

Contact SerenaGroup if you would like to have an on-site course

**November 6-9, 2020
West Palm Beach, FL**

More dates to come

Registration is required at
www.serenagroupinc.com



The Hugs Project

Join SerenaGroup by helping raise awareness and supporting troops in the Middle East through The Hugs Project.

The Hugs Project was started in June 2004 by Ray and Karen Stark in Edmond, OK as a labor of love. They wanted to make sure every American service member knows they are loved and appreciated by those who remain at home enjoying the freedom they provide.

As the war winds to a close, we still have over 10,000 deployed Troops in Afghanistan & Iraq as well as Honduras, the Ukraine, Jordan, Cuba, Africa, etc. They are having trouble getting supplies because the stores aren't being restocked. The US Military doesn't want to go off and leave tons of supplies for whoever comes in next. So, even basic items are hard to come by.

Our troops work hard every day and when they finally get a break and can receive mail from home, we want them to find care packages overflowing with snacks, hygiene items, DVD's and CD's, Oreos, socks and other much needed items. Most of all, we want them to experience the love we'll be tucking inside, along with cooling ties and other items that remind them someone cares.

Packing these boxes with items and sending them out costs a lot of money. Whether you can help by sending items to pack, or with monetary donations, any amount of help is appreciated. For a list of some items that we use in care packages, visit the website page to donate to our cause. All donations go directly toward supplies and care package items but also to our newest focus, **Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy**.

The organization is now working with clinics in Oklahoma to help provide the most effective care for PTS (posttraumatic stress) and TBI (traumatic brain injury). The Hugs Project (through your generous donations) is funding care for returning Troops, Veterans and First Responders. No Military person in the therapy program will ever be asked to pay for treatment. They have already covered the price with their service to our country. It is very much needed and will be used wisely to provide for some outstanding and brave young men and women.

The treatment is called hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) and it's exciting to be in on the ground floor of this effort. Studies in Israel and the U.S. have proven HBOT is the most effective treatment one can receive for brain injuries. If you want to learn more, please join our Facebook group (Hyperbaric Oxygen for Returning Troops and Veterans). You can also research "PTSD + Oxygen" on YouTube to learn more.

If you want to learn more, please join the Facebook group (Hyperbaric Oxygen for Returning Troops and Veterans) and/or visit the website at <http://www.thehugsproject.com/>

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How can you support Wound Care Research?

Here is a simple way to make that happen. When you shop on Amazon.com – always start at:

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Select SerenaGroup Research Foundation and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

While shopping for your favorite items, you will be helping develop new products and techniques through wound care research.



Why should our center attempt to compress a Venous Leg Ulcer (VLU) on Day One?

Matthew (Matt) Schweyer, CPCO™, CHT-A, CHWS

Chief Quality Officer

Quality Metric – Compression of the VLU Patient

Question: Why should we compress a VLU on Day one in the Wound Center? Recently, I was asked the above question. And, what does it mean when our SerenaGroup® Quality Metric for Compression of Venous Leg Ulcers is so low? The Answer: the typical reason we see low quality scores is that all patients are sent outside the Advanced Wound Care Center (i.e. Vascular Lab) for testing and assessment. While, this is not a **BAD** practice, the issue is that the VLU patient may have to wait days to weeks for the test to be performed. And, during that delay, the VLU could become greater in size and the associated edema and pain continues to be problematic for the patient.

So, *what to do?* First, let's look at the evidence as it relates to compression.

Regardless of what school of thought we embrace; the evidence is clear. Compression Therapy is the mainstay of the treatment of venous leg ulcers (VLU) and the advanced wound care and compression therapy will heal most small venous ulcers in a short duration. The goals of compression therapy are:

- ulcer healing

- reduction of pain and edema
- prevention of recurrence

Compression is used for VLU, narrows veins, restores valve competence and reduces ambulatory venous pressure, thus, reducing venous reflux (VR). Compression also helps decrease inflammatory cytokines, accelerates capillary flow, and lowers capillary fluid leakage, thereby alleviating limb edema.

For the above reasons, it is SerenaGroup's rationale that all patients require a vascular assessment and patients who present with VLU's are placed in compression as soon as possible, unless contraindicated. The sooner the provider intervenes with compression, the **GOLD** standard, the better the outcome will be for the patient.

All this is great in theory, however, there is push back as it has been stated, "we can't compress the patient without a Vascular Assessment."

This is a true statement!



SerenaGroup® encourages, recommends, and supports the literature for all compression dressings, garments, etc.

What is said language? After a review of a multitude of manufacturer's recommendations, a bedside Ankle Brachial Index (ABI) is to be used to determine if the patient is compressible and which type to utilize. The bedside ABI will allow for the provider to decide and create the Plan of Care for the VLU that needs to include

COMPRESSION on day one.

Performing an ABI: this does not negate the decision to send the patient to the Vascular Lab for a more definitive diagnostic testing; in fact, it supports it! And, this allows for the evidence to dictate the Plan of Care to compress the patient on day one.

The provider needs to follow-up with the patient once the results have been received from the Vascular Lab. This allows the provider to modify and/or change the plan of care, based on what the testing shows.

In conclusion, I would be remiss if I did not remind everyone that there is a table of acceptable Compression Dressings on our website at www.serenagroupinc.com. It is in the Members Portal that is exclusive to our hospital partners. If your center has questions related to compression of the VLU patient, please reach out to me at mschweyer@serenagroups.com.

SerenaGroup Wound Care Challenges Course

July 10 – 11, 2020
Kyle TX

July 31 – August 1, 2020
Omaha NE

Registration is required at:
www.serenagroupinc.com

(top right corner of website;
click on Courses and select date of course to get fully registered)

FEEDBACK

SerenaGroup
Building the Nation's Leading Wound Care Team

"Megan has always made sure my son had his supplies ordered, appointments were made and I can't even say enough about Donna. She cares for my son with compassion. This staff are a rare find and I truly believe they are angels sent from heaven.

- JOHN W.
RE: DEBORAH ADVANCED WOUND CARE & HYPERBARIC PROGRAM

SerenaGroup
Building the Nation's Leading Wound Care Team

"I want to thank all the staff, nurses and doctors that have helped me over the last few months. I am totally convinced that the treatments I received in the hyperbaric chamber had a major impact on my recovery. The support, reassurance, caring and personal attention to my daily visits made the process enjoyable. I will always be grateful.

- JOHN A.
RE: VIA CHRISTI ADVANCED WOUND CARE & HYPERBARIC PROGRAM

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"I had a little scratch on my right ankle that somehow progressed into cellulitis with a bone infection. The cellulitis caused the scratch to open to a size that was so big that it needed to be operated on with a skin graft procedure. While I was in the Wound Care Center @ Deborah, it was recommended that I consider HBO therapy along with my weekly wound care appointments. I did have surgery and continued HBO therapy. The skin graft surgery resulted in two wounds, which both healed up completely with HBO therapy. I received positive support from staff and they encouraged me to stay the course of treatment while I kept up with the wound and dressing changes. During my time in the center, I was being encouraged by staff, which was a beautiful thing, and I recommend it. I no longer take any pain medications, and I am able to participate in my daily family life again!"

- CHERYL

Follow the SerenaGroup® Website and Social Media sites:



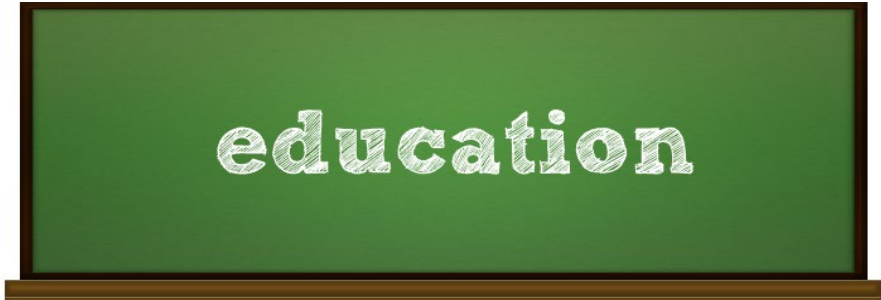
www.serenagroupinc.com

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Follow our sites to keep up to date on Advanced Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine

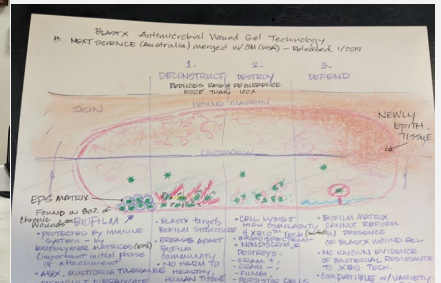
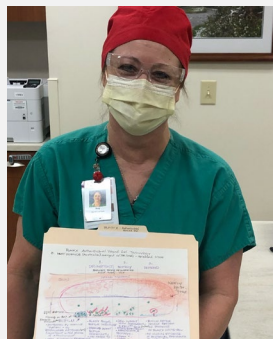


Ascension Via Christi Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Therapy Program

Jessica Raub, RN – Clinical Coordinator, has developed a new education platform for the staff. Each staff member will present at a *lunch and learn* for Education Excellence.

Last month, Mary Goetz, CWON, RN, presented to the center on Blast-X!

For June, the topic is Lymphedema and Treatment Options presented by Gage from Tactile Medical via Zoom Meeting.



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