

Updated 2021

Monoplace Hyperbaric Emergency Procedures

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Implementation Date	
Program Director	
Medical Director	
Clinical Coordinator	
Hyperbaric Safety Director	

These emergency procedures are specific to monoplace hyperbaric chambers pressurized with oxygen. In an emergency it is important to respond in a timely and appropriate manner and to understand the importance of the actions that need taken and why we take them. The physician, hyperbaric tech and other staff must work as a team to resolve emergencies quickly and efficiently.

I have read and understand the hyperbaric emergency procedures, and will respond accordingly in the event of an emergency: All staff must read and understand (print additional copies if needed):

Name (Printed)	Signature	Date



Topics

- Patient Seizure
- Unresponsive Patient/Cardiac Arrest
- Suspected Pneumothorax
- Loss of Chamber Pressurization
- Oxygen Leak
- Uncontrolled Insurance in Chamber Pressure
- Fire in the Chamber Room
- Fire in Chamber
- Emergency Termination for Perry 3800





Hyperbaric Technician/Nurse

- Stop travel & maintain consistent depth – notify Physician
- Maintain depth until directed to surface the patient
- Chart all events

Physician

- Direct patient care
- Perform clinical treatments as appropriate
- Chart as required

- Follow direction to call EMS, Security, and Emergency Room
- Assist as needed
- Chart/log as required



Unresponsive Patient/Cardiac Arrest

Hyperbaric Technician/Nurse

- Stop travel & initiate code blue by calling 911 or EMS, contact security and ER
- Notify physician and maintain consistent depth until directed to terminate treatment
- Follow emergency termination procedures
- Chart all events

Physician

- Supervise patient care and emergency procedures
- Determine appropriate treatment
- Chart as required

- Follow direction from hyperbaric tech and physician
- Notify EMS, security and ERE as applicable

- Ascend the patient to surface at 5 psi/min (do not use the emergency vent or exhaust bypass mode unless specifically instructed by supervising physician if emergency vent is used control vent 3 sec on and 3 sec off.)
- Patient must be clear of chamber (10 Feet Per NFPA 99) and oxygen saturated linen removed prior to defibrillation.



Suspected Pneumothorax

Hyperbaric Technician/Nurse

- Stop travel & notify physician
- Notify security, ER and call EMS
- Maintain consistent depth until directed to terminate the treatment
- Follow emergency termination procedure for chamber
- Chart all events as appropriate

Physician

- Determine treatment and direct patient care
- Chart as required

- Follow direction from hyperbaric tech and Physician
- Notify EMS, Security and ER as applicable



Loss of Chamber Pressurization

Hyperbaric Technician/Nurse

- Notify patient of planned action
- Notify physician
- Adjust rate of decompress the chamber 1 psi/min

Physician

- Supervise patient care
- Evaluate and determine if transfer to another facility is required

Nurse/Front Desk

- Follow direction from hyperbaric tech and physician
- Notify EMS, Security and Emergency Room as applicable

• A fault investigation must be completed by the manufacturer prior to resuming chamber operations.



Hyperbaric Technician/Nurse

- Determine leak source and correct if possible. (secure electronic equipment is unable to correct)
- Notify Physician
- Follow emergency treatment termination procedure
- Log all events
- Complete fault investigation

Physician

- Supervise patient care
- Evaluate and determine if further treatment at other facility is necessary
- Chart as required

Nurse/Front Desk

- Follow direction from hyperbaric tech and physician
- Notify EMS, Security, and Emergency Room as applicable

A fault investigation must be completed by the manufacturer prior to resuming chamber operations.



Uncontrolled Insurance in Chamber Pressure

Hyperbaric Technician/Nurse

- Shut all chamber gas supply valves
- Notify physician
- Notify patient of planned action
- Follow emergency treatment plan
- Log all events
- Complete a fault investigation to determine the reason of event

Physician

- Supervise patient care, evaluate and determine further treatment and if transfer to other facility is required
- Perform clinical treatment as required
- Chart as required

Nurse/Front Desk

- Follow direction from hyperbaric tech and physician
- Notify EMS, Security, and Emergency Room as applicable

A fault investigation must be completed by the manufacturer prior to resuming chamber operations.





Fire in the Chamber Room

Hyperbaric Technician/Nurse

- Initiate patient evacuation, once chamber is depressurized evacuate all patients
- Activate fire alarm/call security for CODE RED
- Contain Fire
- Extinguish if safe to do so
- Evacuate patients
- Close chamber doors and turn off the oxygen supply source before evacuating the facility
- Document as required

Physician

- Evaluate patients after evacuation to determine if transfer for further care is required
- Chart as required

- Follow direction from hyperbaric tech and physician
- Notify EMS, Security, and Emergency Room as applicable



Hyperbaric Technician/Nurse

- Initiate evacuation by emergency decompressing the chamber, shut oxygen zone valve and remove patient
- Activate fire alarm/Call security for CODE RED, contact emergency room and call 911 for EMS
- Follow emergency treatment termination procedure
- Chart/log all events

Physician

- Evaluate patients after evacuation to determine if transfer to other facility required
- Chart as required

Nurse/Front Desk

- Follow direction from hyperbaric tech and physician
- If needed, activate fire alarm/call security for CODE RED, contact emergency room and call 911 for EMS

 Assess the situation prior to opening the chamber door, this could cause a back draft effect. Under certain circumstances it may be better to wait for EMS arrival prior to opening the chamber door.



Emergency Termination for Perry 3800

Hyperbaric Technician/Nurse

- Notify patient of imminent rapid depressurization
- Warn patient NOT to hold breath during depressurization
- Turn the rate set to the quickest depressurization rate
- Turn the pressure set to zero

Physician

- Determine appropriate treatment
- Direct patient care

- Follow direction from hyperbaric tech and physician
- Notify EMS, Security, and Emergency Room as applicable.

- At the physician's discretion the rate of depressurization may be slowed.
- Emergency vent button should only be performed in extreme emergencies.

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