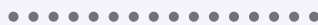


SERENAGROUP NEWSLETTER

Building the Nation's Leading Wound Care Team

Message from our CEO...



THOMAS SERENA, MD, CEO

“...the full measure of devotion.”

At one time, early education featured exacting exercises in rote memory. If you, like me, memorized celebrated speeches, you immediately recognized the line from Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. In the oft-learned oration, the President implores a war weary nation to persevere in honor of the fallen who gave. . . “the last full measure of devotion.”

Throughout our battle against COVID-19 we have asserted that wound care is an essential service. Our program directors, nurses, technicians, staff, and physicians have held fast to this vision. Our clinics have remained open and our

patients have benefited from the devotion of our team. Last month, nearly two years into the struggle, an unprecedented number of staff and clinicians at our centers and offices fell ill with the Omicron variant. Again, the team rose to the challenge: shifting staff, working longer and harder, and miraculously finding ways to serve our patients. I can say unequivocally that everyone at SerenaGroup® has given the full measure of devotion.

To borrow from Lincoln the world will not long remember these words or the hero’s praise heaped on medical professionals, but our patients will never forget the limb and life saving care they received during these trying times.



Is it Permitted in the HBO chamber?

.....

MATT SCHWEYER, CCO



Recently, I received a phone call from one of our centers requesting that I provide clarification as to items permitted inside the chamber. The basic issue was how to address the very real issue of incontinence. As you can imagine, this is a monumental concern for the patient, the technician, and the chamber.

Simple answer: we allow AAUs in the chamber because they are mentioned in Policy HM #402 and on the permitted list. Aside from the obvious hygienic issue, the rationale for allowing AAUs in the chamber lies in the increased level of humidity once the AAU is in use. Many years ago, a mentor of mine did a static discharge research project for HBOT and presented the obvious: when the relative humidity increases, the potential for static discharge decreases.

A few additional caveats: most of these garments are of the underwear type and do not have tabs for closure. However, what if there are tabs and those tabs are Velcro? My answer and advice is to tape the Velcro down and the potential for static discharge is minimized.

Another item that has been of great concern is patient(s) and their glasses. As HBOT Safety roles up to me and in my travels to our centers, I have asked about patients and glasses. Sadly, the message, received has been mixed. Glasses are permitted in the chamber and on the permitted list in HM#402. If you are concerned about scratching the acrylic, tape the corners. There is only one type of

glass frames we do not permit in the chambers. Those frames are made out of titanium. And trust me, your patient will know if they have titanium frames: they cost more. Here is a bonus question for you. Why do we not allow titanium inside the chamber? If you know let me know. I will let you know if you are correct.

In conclusion, under ideal conditions, sitting on a bed pan for any amount of time, is uncomfortable. Now add the uncertainties of the HBOT environment. Policy HM#402 points to what is permitted inside the chamber. Since AAU's are allowed, the issue of a bedpan should be moot. Likewise, the policy affords them the ability wear their glasses. In the end, your patient may thank you for allowing them to have some control and dignity. Removing obstacles for our patients is one of the best things you can provide for a positive patient experience. And those positives factor into your departments Patient Satisfaction scores. A win-win for all, patient, you, and your department.

HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS INTO THE CHAMBER.

- Batteries
- Books
- Cigarettes
- Coins/Money
- Electronics
- Hair Accessories
- Hair Gel/Spray
- Hearing Aids
- Heat Warmers
- Jewelry
- Keys
- Lighters
- Lotion/Oil
- Anything containing oil, grease, or alcohol
- Anything deemed unsafe by this center
- Makeup
- Matches
- Medications
- Metal Objects
- Mobile Phones
- Nail polish
- Newspaper
- Pagers
- Perfume
- Shoes
- Stockings
- Unsafe Dressings
- Watches

SerenaGroup
Building the Future's Leading Hyperbaric Team



Antimicrobial Stewardship Program



NANCY TRAFELET, DIRECTOR

Starting February 2022, SerenaGroup® Advanced Wound Care Centers will be reporting an additional metric on the monthly dashboard that reflects those clinics that prescribe antibiotics to institute an Antimicrobial Stewardship Program.

SerenaGroup® will be the first in the wound care industry to collect the data and be able to report out the outcomes through an already robust quality metric dashboard. Presently, the prescription of topical antimicrobials and antibiotics in the wound clinic is best described as indiscriminate; this is not the fault of the woundologist who is practicing best practices in the wound care centers. The Joint Commission requires outpatient departments that prescribe antibiotics to institute an antimicrobial stewardship program (ASPs). This data on topical antimicrobial and antibiotic use will be collected from advanced wound care centers across the United States. The cumulative data on antimicrobial use will improve patient care and inform future ASP interventions.

What does Antimicrobial Stewardship entail? Antimicrobial Stewardship is a coordinated program that:

- promotes the appropriate use of antimicrobials (antibiotics),
- improves patient outcomes,
- reduces microbial resistance, and
- decreases the spread of infections caused by multidrug-resistant organisms.

By following Joint Commission standards, the 5 elements of performance for the antimicrobial stewardship program will be followed:

1. Identifying an antimicrobial stewardship leader, usually your Medical Director
2. Establishing an annual antimicrobial stewardship goal
3. Implementing evidence-based practice guidelines related to the antimicrobial stewardship goal
4. Providing clinical staff with educational resources related to the antimicrobial stewardship goal
5. Collecting, analyzing, and reporting data related to the antimicrobial stewardship goal.

In wound care, as in other outpatient settings, antimicrobial stewardship aims to maximize clinical outcomes while minimizing adverse outcomes, including side effects, antimicrobial resistance, toxicity, and selection of pathogenic organisms.

Most antibiotic courses are longer than recommended, including those prescribed for skin and soft tissue infections.

SerenaGroup® continues to provide VALUE-ADD programs to our hospital partners. We strive to produce best practices and ensure that our patients with chronic wounds are healed through best practices. The value-add for ASP includes:

- Compliance with The Joint Commission Standards and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Conditions of Participation related to Antimicrobial Stewardship.
- Documentation of the evidence-based use of antibiotics/ antimicrobial.
- Educating patients, and their families as needed, regarding the appropriate use of antimicrobial medications, including antibiotics.
- Collecting, tracking and analyzing antimicrobial consumption.
- Decreasing the use of inappropriate antimicrobial dressings; therefore, utilizing cost effective dressings.
- Centers will be good financial stewards.



Education is one of many key benefits to partnering with SerenaGroup.

SerenaGroup recognizes that the key to continued success with positive clinical outcomes is education. Education is provided through different platforms to ensure the tools are available to our centers.

- Monthly HBO Safety Webinar
- Monthly Educational Series
- Roundtable Compliance Meeting
- Roundtable PD Meeting - Productivity | Community Education
- Journal Club
- Member's Portal
- Newsletter
- Policies and Procedures
- Clinical Guidelines
- On-line and on-site courses



2022 Educational Courses

May - Ascension Via Christi
 June - Berkshire Health System
 August - Steward Health

SerenaGroup Blue Star Winner



Brittney Emmel
Registered Nurse

"Brittney came on-board and stepped in immediately due to a staffing crisis. With her skills and dedication, patients were seen and appropriately treated."

SerenaGroup

Building the Nation's Leading Wound Care Team

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