

Medica Central Coverage Policy

Policy Name: Hyperbaric and Topical Oxygen Therapy MP9055

Effective

10/01/2025

Date:

Important Information – Please Read Before Using This Policy

These services may or may not be covered by all Medica Central plans. Coverage is subject to requirements in applicable federal or state laws. Please refer to the member's plan document for other specific coverage information. If there is a difference between this general information and the member's plan document, the member's plan document will be used to determine coverage. With respect to Medicare, Medicaid, and other government programs, this policy will apply unless these programs require different coverage.

Members may contact Medica Customer Service at the phone number listed on their member identification card to discuss their benefits more specifically. Providers with questions may call the Provider Service Center. Please use the Quick Reference Guide on the Provider Communications page for the appropriate phone number. https://mo-central.medica.com/Providers/SSM-employee-health-plan-for-IL-MO-OK-providers

Medica Central coverage policies are not medical advice. Members should consult with appropriate health care providers to obtain needed medical advice, care, and treatment.

Coverage Policy

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy **is COVERED** for those indications approved by the Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Committee of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Society listed in the Description Section of this coverage policy.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is investigative and unproven and therefore **NOT COVERED** for all other indications including but not limited to traumatic or chronic brain injury, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, stroke, and autism. There is insufficient reliable evidence in the form of high quality peer-reviewed medical literature to establish the efficacy or effects on health care outcomes.

Topical oxygen therapy is investigative and unproven, and therefore **NOT COVERED**. This includes hyperbaric topical oxygen therapy (HTOT) and continuous topical oxygen therapy (CTOT). There is insufficient reliable evidence in the form of high quality peer-reviewed medical literature to establish the efficacy or effects on health care outcomes.

Description

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) involves the breathing of 100 percent oxygen while in a sealed chamber that has been pressurized at 1½ to 3 times normal atmospheric pressure. Under these conditions, the lungs can gather up to three times more oxygen than would be possible breathing oxygen at normal air pressure. The combination of high pressure and pure oxygen drive the oxygen into the bloodstream at a very high concentration so that it can spread deep into the body tissues, even areas where circulation is diminished or blocked, to help promote healing. There are two main types of chambers: monoplace and multiplace. Monoplace chambers are designed to treat one patient. Multiplace chambers accommodate more than one patient, including medical personnel for safety precautions, and are pressurized with compressed air while the patients breathe 100% oxygen via masks, head hoods, or endotracheal tubes. Single treatment sessions range from 90 to 120 minutes on average.



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There are two types of topical oxygen therapy, both of which are intended to improve wound oxygenation by delivering oxygen topically to the wound area and reversing local hypoxia. Hyperbaric topical oxygen therapy (HTOT) is the original mode of administering topical oxygen therapy (TOT) and generally done in a clinic setting. With HTOT, the affected limb is enclosed in a chamber or gas-impermeable bag, and the chamber is filled with oxygen pressurized slightly above atmospheric pressure. The second type is continuous topical oxygen therapy (CTOT) which can be self-administered at home. CTOT uses a portable oxygen concentrator that delivers atmospheric oxygen to the wound site through a cannula.

The Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Committee of the Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society has approved the following uses for HBOT:

- 1. Air or gas embolism
- Carbon monoxide poisoning
 - a. Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Complicated By Cyanide Poisoning
- 3. Clostridial myositis and myonecrosis (gas gangrene)
- 4. Crush injury, compartment syndrome, and other acute traumatic ischemias
- 5. Decompression sickness
- 6. Arterial Insufficiencies
 - a. Central Retinal Artery Occlusion
 - b. Enhancement of healing in select problem wounds
- Severe anemia
- 8. Intracranial abscess
- 9. Necrotizing soft tissue infections
- 10. Osteomyelitis (refractory)
- 11. Delayed radiation injury (soft tissue and bony necrosis)
- 12. Compromised grafts and flaps
- 13. Acute thermal burn injury
- 14. Idiopathic Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (when used within two weeks of symptom onset)
- 15. Avascular Necrosis (Aseptic Osteonecrosis)

FDA Approval

The FDA has approved a number of hyperbaric chambers since 1984 through a 510(k) process as Class II devices for the indications listed as appropriate by the Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Committee of the Undersea & Hyperbaric Medical Society.

Few examples of TOT devices are EPIFLO-28 (Neogenix, LLC, Beachwood, OH), HEC 1000 (Metro Medical, Livonia, MI), O2 Boot (GWR Medical, L.L.P. (Chadds Ford, PA).

Prior Authorization

Prior authorization is not required. However, services with specific coverage criteria may be reviewed retrospectively to determine if criteria are being met. Retrospective denial may result if criteria are not met.

Coding Considerations



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Use the current applicable CPT/HCPCS code(s). The following codes are included below for informational purposes only, and are subject to change without notice. Inclusion or exclusion of a code does not constitute or imply member coverage or provider reimbursement.

CPT Codes:

99183 - Physician attendance and supervision of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, per session

HCPC codes

A4575 - Topical hyperbaric oxygen chamber, disposable

E0446 - Topical oxygen delivery system, not otherwise specified, includes all supplies and accessories.

G0277 - Hyperbaric oxygen under pressure, full body changer, per 30 minute interval.

Revenue code:

0413 - Respiratory services - hyperbaric oxygen therapy

	Committee/Source	Date(s)
Document Created:	Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	February 20, 2019
Revised:	Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	February 19, 2020 February 17, 2021 February 16, 2022 January 18, 2023 December 20, 2023
Reviewed:	Medical Policy Committee/Health Services Division	February 19, 2020 February 17, 2021 February 16, 2022 January 18, 2023 December 20, 2023

Original Effective Date: 02/20/2019 Re-Review Date(s): 05/15/2025

Administrative Update:

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