

ARIZONA STATE BOARD OF PODIATRY EXAMINERS
SUBSTANTIVE POLICY STATEMENT REGARDING BOARD POLICIES
AND PROCEDURES NOTIFYING ALL LICENSEES THAT THE BOARD IS ADOPTING THE
FOLLOWING GUIDELINES AS A MODEL POLICY FOR THE ORDERING OF
HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY AND SUPERVISION OF THE ADMINISTRATION
OF HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

SPS 12-02

This Substantive Policy Statement is advisory only. A Substantive Policy Statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona administrative procedure act. If you believe that this Substantive Policy Statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes §41-1033 for a review of the document.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, (“CMS”) has developed guidelines which indicate that a physician who is supervising the administration of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, (“HBOT”), must be able to treat any complications which arise during the administration of the treatment. Those guidelines further state that a supervising physician must include the ability to insert chest tubes, treat seizures, and evaluate and treat sudden eardrum rupture. The Board agrees that these guidelines are necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare.

A.R.S. §32-801(9) defines “podiatrist” as follows: Podiatrist is synonymous with podiatric physician and surgeon and means a person who, within the limitations of this chapter, is registered and licensed to practice podiatry by means of diagnosis or medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative or electrical treatment of ailments of the human foot and lower leg, but does not include amputation of the entire foot, or administration of an anesthetic other than local.

A.R.S. §32-801(10) defines “podiatry” as follows: Podiatry is synonymous with chiropody and means the diagnosis or medical, surgical, mechanical, manipulative or electrical treatment of ailments of the human foot and leg, but does not include amputation of the leg or entire foot or administration of an anesthetic other than local.

Based on the CMS guidelines and the scope of practice for podiatrist in Arizona as defined in Statute, the Arizona Board of Podiatry Examiners provides the following policy: the ordering of HBOT

is within the scope of practice for a podiatrist; however, it is not within the scope of practice to supervise the administration of HBOT because the training and skills required to treat potential complications of the treatment are outside the scope of practice for podiatrists in Arizona.