
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES**SUBJECT:**HYPERBARIC OXYGEN TREATMENT FOR
CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

NO. 53

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Original date of issue: 5/88

Reviewed:	5/90	6/91	11/93	5/94	2/99	12/99	3/03
	4/06						
Revised:	5/96	4/97					

Patient Population

Neonate	√
Pediatric	√
Adolescent	√
Adult	√
Geriatric	√

POLICY:

Patients presenting with symptoms of Carbon Monoxide poisoning will be evaluated for hyperbaric treatment based on the criteria outlined in this policy and transferred, if appropriate.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Criteria for Referral Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy:

1. CoHb \geq 25.
2. CoHb level $<$ 25 with significant neurologic symptoms or cognitive deficits (e.g. coma, seizures, significant neuropsychiatric deficits, ataxia, peripheral neuropathy)
3. Pregnant Females
4. Anyone unconscious at the scene
5. Any patient with cardiovascular involvement by clinical presentation or ECG (e.g. angina, shock, or ECG evidence of myocardial ischemia)
6. Any patient with significant metabolic acidosis ($\text{pH} \leq 7.32$)
7. Smoke inhalation victims in whom combined CO & hydrogen cyanide poisoning is suspected to be present (especially if CoHb 20%)
8. The mildly CO intoxicated patient (e.g. nausea, vomiting, headache, dizziness, weakness, visual blurring, confusion, mild neurologic deficits, or abnormal psychometrics) who fails to respond to 100% O₂ administered by mask for approximately 4 hours

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EMS ADVISORY #5B
(Replace EMS Advisory #5A)

Hyperbaric Therapy

I. Hyperbaric Treatment for CO Poisoning and Smoke Inhalation Criteria for Hyperbaric Therapy

1. All patients who have been exposed to carbon monoxide and who are or have been unconscious, or who present signs of CNS derangement regardless of the carboxyhemoglobin level, should be considered candidates for hyperbaric oxygen therapy.
2. Consultation with BMHC Emergency Department Attending physician is required to determine if the following carbon monoxide-exposed patients require hyperbaric oxygen therapy:
 - a. A symptom-free patient who has a carboxyhemoglobin level of 25% or more on presentation to the Emergency Department
 - b. Pregnant patients

II. Notification System

1. In cases involving CO/smoke inhalation patients, the referring physician must contact:

The Bronx Municipal Hospital (Jacobi) (718) 918-7520
2. If it is decided that hyperbaric oxygen therapy is needed, the BMHC physician will direct the referring physician to transfer the patient to the BMHC Emergency Department.
3. The referring physician must contact the FDNY-EMS Tour Commander to arrange for an FDNY-EMS specialty referral center transport. The referring physician or FDNY-EMS Tour Commander may suggest a MEDEVAC if it is felt to be beneficial. FDNY-EMS will make the final determination concerning 911 FDNY-EMS System helicopter utilization.

III. Cancellation Of Request To Transport

1. The referring physician must contact the FDNY-EMS Tour Commander if the request to transport is canceled.