

Categories of British Hyperbaric Chamber

Category 1

Facilities should be capable of receiving patients in any diagnostic category who may require Advanced Life Support either immediately or during hyperbaric treatment.

Category 2

Facilities should be capable of receiving patients in any diagnostic category who are judged by the referring medical officer not to be likely to require Advanced Life Support during hyperbaric treatment.

Category 3

Facilities should be capable of receiving emergency referrals of divers and compressed air tunnel workers. These facilities should also be capable of providing elective treatment of residual symptoms of decompression illness. Patients may be accepted, in the name of the Medical Director (whose role is defined in para 24 of the Cox Report), even when no Hyperbaric Duty Doctor is available at the time of referral provided, in the view of the referring clinician, the patient's condition demands immediate action. This does not obviate the need for discussion with the Hyperbaric Duty Doctor who should attend the patient as soon as is practicable.

Category 4

Facilities should be capable of receiving elective and emergency referrals of patients in any diagnostic category who are judged by the referring medical officer, on the advice of the Hyperbaric Duty Doctor, not to be likely to require access during hyperbaric treatment. Normally monoplace chambers are not suitable for the immediate treatment of acute decompression illness.