HYPERBARIC STAFF CERTIFICATION

*Genesis and Current Standards of the National Board of Diving & Hyperbaric Medicine*

UHMS Northeast Chapter Meeting

October 24-25, 2014
The National Board of Diving & Hyperbaric Medical Technology

*Who we are…*

**Not for profit:** no officers/board members financially enriched

Net revenues fed back into diving/hyperbaric medicine

Board fully transparent; no financial or other income-related relationships or profit motives exist

Board constituted with undersea & hyperbaric medicine

~ *thought leaders & subject matter experts*

~ *operational, safety and compliance educators and authors*

~ *clinical researchers and laboratory scientists*
The National Board of Diving & Hyperbaric Medical Technology

*Who we are…*

Board takes leadership stance on issues of safety, operational practice & compliance

~ *numerous Position Statements generated*

Board serves as a ‘go to’ resource for national/international groups, organizations, agencies, purchasers of health care

~ *seeking positions on operational standards, staffing guidelines, Code of Practice updates, clinical research initiatives*
The early 1970’s

Oil/gas exploration moved into deeper, more remote, more hostile environments

Diving services industry struggled to keep up

Increasing diver morbidity & mortality

Concept of the remote duty/oilfield diver medic

DMT training Beta tested 1975, launched 1976
The Diver Medic

Need for DMT curriculum & certification standards

NAEMT not prepared to accommodating the DMT

NADMT incorporated in 1985, 501c 3

‘The Certified Diver Medic’

‘Basic’ vs. ‘Advanced’ issues; 2009

Standardized certification examination process; 2014

Currently 693 certified diver medics
The Certified Hyperbaric Technologist

NADMT board members also prominent in hyperbaric medicine

Lack of clinical standards for technical/operations personnel

Decision to develop hyperbaric certification program; 1989
The Certified Hyperbaric Technologist

Name change; NBDHMT

Certification testing began in 1991; San Diego UHMS ASM

Eligibility; those commonly operating hyperbaric systems

~ civilian and military personnel
The Certified Hyperbaric Technologist

Evolution in delivery of hyperbaric medicine, mid-1990’s

Monoplace chambers become dominant delivery system

Wound care/hyperbaric medicine business plan introduced

NBDHMT decision to add CMA & CNA eligibility for CHT as support for licensed personnel

NBDHMT decision to eliminate some purely technical /research categories
The Certified Hyperbaric Technologist

*Scope of Practice Issue*

CHT as an added qualification; not a scope of practice

Scope dictated by primary medical qualification

CMA/CNA CHT’s increasingly assuming licensed staff role

~ *some with no CMA/CNA experience*
~ *waiting period introduced*

NBDHMT decision to eliminate CMA/CNA eligibility; 2014
The Certified Hyperbaric Technologist

Scope of Practice Issue

Obviously concerning for the CMA/CNA CHT

~ considered correct course of action

~ revealing re: hyperbaric practice patterns, national curriculum agencies of opinion that neither trained nor SOP to so function

~ Board encouraged those involved to seek enhanced training to maintain eligibility; offering related stipends
The Certified Hyperbaric Technologist

CHT eligibility

~ qualifying vocational pathway

~ NBDHMT approved hyperbaric training course; face to face

~ 480 hour internship; 40 hr. face to face ‘qualified’ preceptorship

~ CHT examination passing grade; two failed attempts requires repeat training course and third/final attempt

Currently 1,609 certified hyperbaric technologists
The experienced chamber operator dilemma

No certification opportunities for purely technical personnel

Represent some of the most experienced and capable

Ad hoc NBDHMT committee investigating this issue

~ possibility of additional hyperbaric certification category
The Certified Hyperbaric Technologist

Other compliance & practice standard issues

CHT’s practicing in the absence of a onsite physician
  ~ *Position Statement 2010-01 April 2010*

CHT’s practicing in an essential physician role

Air break capability expectations
  ~ *Position Statement 2009-04 August 2009*

In-home delivery of hyperbaric oxygen therapy
  ~ *Position Statement 2009-05 October 2009*
The Certified Hyperbaric Registered Nurse

Baromedical Nurses Association formed in 1985

Developed certification in hyperbaric nursing

~ unable to establish program with national nursing bodies

~ NBDHT offered administrative home in 1995; remains today

~ CHRN, ACHRN and CHRN-C categories

Currently 554 CHRN’s (all categories)
The Certified Hyperbaric Veterinary Technologist

Currently 13 CHT-vets