

# **LATERAL APPLICATION TO ACCELERATING PATIENT FLOW IN THE HYPERBARIC CHAMBER**

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## **Introduction**

What is the one consistent issue that our patients' dislike the most about HBOT?.....WAITING.

The market audience is convenience driven, time poor and motivated to move on if their needs are not being met. Clinical staff can become immune to patient delay. Process improvement is more transparent when you stop looking at staff and start looking at your patients.

## **Methods**

This patient flow concept is for a three compartment multi-place chamber and our unit is the model. This process is for a 14 msw/ 46 fsw therapeutic table, with two routine treatments daily.

The concept is simple, once the main compartment has dived to treatment depth (with the first group of patients) at the start of the day, that main compartment then remains at treatment pressure up until the final patient group arrives back on surface at completion of the day's final treatment.

After analyzing patient/staffing models, patient arrival times were staggered and patient groups reduced to (up to) four, vice the usual, (up to) eight. These smaller patient groups are then transferred into the main compartment via the smaller treatment compartment at 30 min (and varying) intervals. This process is repeated until the final patient group completes treatment and surfaces via the main compartment.

## **Results**

We theoretically calculated a patient wait time saving of up to 28% (26.6 Hrs over 40 routine treatments). More Doctor and Nurse face time for patient's, which equates to better patient quality care outcomes – less chance of mistakes.

Other savings determined: 25-30% reduction in running costs of the chamber facility; 15% reduction in oxygen costs for patient treatments; 100% reduction in oxygen costs for inside attendants (No Deco obligation).

## **Summary**

We intend to trial this new model in the near future and may reasonably estimate greater patient satisfaction, improved efficiency and business growth.