

Since the BNA's inception in 1985, one of our main goals has been to recognize the specialized practice of hyperbaric nursing. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy requires nurses to have a heightened degree of patient assessment skills, advanced knowledge of specific disease processes, and technical abilities not elsewhere seen in nursing environments.

In 1995, the first BNACB (Baromedical Nurses Association Certifying Board) was elected by the BNA to oversee the hyperbaric certification process of the Certification of Hyperbaric Registered Nurse (CHRN). The Baromedical Nurses Association Certification Board has three elected members that serve a total of 3 years. The BNACB has regular quarterly meetings discussing issues with certification and is governed by its own set of bylaws.

CHRN signifies that a registered nurse has:

- Made the commitment to provide the best possible care for hyperbaric patients
- Understands the value of education and nursing research in the hyperbaric community
- Has taken the necessary steps to advance his/her career in hyperbaric nursing.

Currently, registered nurses who have had advanced training in hyperbaric oxygen therapy (and have the work experience required) may seek certification as a CHRN, ACHRN (Advanced CHRN) or a CHRNC (CHRN Clinician).

The RN role is vital to safe patient care and many states require an RN assessment before procedures are completed. BNACB have approved the following updates and continued process for certification and recertification...

CHRN Certification – Please read requirements thoroughly. Please see NBDHMT website to download forms under “hyperbaric nurses” or the Baromedical Nurses Association website, hyperbaricnurses.org, for further information.

- Applicants need to prove their 40-hour class within the past 5 years (see NBDHMT website for approved classes) and document their 480 hours listed on the BNACB log (or log of your choice) within the last year after completion of hyperbaric orientation class.
Your log must be signed by a CHRN or an RN who is a CHT.
- CHRN must sign off on applicant’s log (480 hours). A CHT may be used for preceptor but will need a CHRN signature for proof of preceptorship by a certified hyperbaric nurse. If there is **no** CHRN working in your department, please contact NBDHMT, BNACB or the BNA for certified nurses that you may contact for preceptorship.
- Preceptor CHRN or CHT/RN guidelines: for **those not working directly** with the CHRN applicant
 - Document applicant has notified them of need for preceptorship
 - Document how you have mentored this applicant through their 480 hours of required experience (either direct or indirect preceptorship).
 - Document your recommendation for this applicant to sit for the CHRN exam.
 - See guidelines for Preceptor requirements.
- There are many certified nurses in every state that you may use for a preceptor. We strongly encourage you to become a BNA member as there are many educational

resources and networking opportunities that are available for your convenience. The networking alone is well worth your membership.

- The RN will have at least one year of experience working in hyperbaric medicine before taking the exam and must show they have been a nurse in the hospital/clinic area for two years or one year in critical care.
- Applicants must submit a letter from their employer confirming employment and recommendations to sit for the hyperbaric nursing exam. The letter must be signed by the program manager/director. The Medical Director may cosign letter of recommendation, but this is not a requirement.
- Other submission requirements include:
 - Proof of RN license
 - Proof of BLS
 - Proof of BNA/UHMS membership for discount.
 - If 40-hour class is more than 5 years old, then RN will need to meet 40 hours of Category A hours in the last 4 years in order to test.

Recertification-

- Must meet the education requirements for CHRN, ACHRN, CHRNC: Education requirements are met according to guidelines of Cat A and Cat B – you must submit proof of continuing education along with certificates. Hours must be categorized in an

organized manner on a log sheet and submitted in an organized Cat A and Cat B order.

https://nbdhmt.org/forms/CHRN_Experience_Log.pdf

- HBO education which has been approved for nursing contact hours will be recognized as Category A content.
- No certificate will be counted unless it specifically states how many education hours have been approved.
- Other submission requirements include:
 - Proof of RN license
 - Proof of BLS
 - Proof of BNA/UHMS membership for discount.
 - Submission of letter from employer/program manager/director indicating proof of employment in HBO or wound healing center.
 - Recertification expired no more than 60 days.

Recertification (Administrative)-

- Nurses that work in the HBO or wound healing setting in an administrative role (no longer involved in direct patient care)
 - Should submit a letter from employer validating this role
- Demonstrate active involvement in the BNA, BNACB, UHMS, ACHM, etc.

- Should provide evidence of active involvement in BNA/BNACB/UHMS/ACHM etc.
- Education requirements are met according to guidelines of Cat A and Cat B – you must submit proof of continuing education along with certificates. Hours must be categorized in an organized arranged manner on a log sheet and submitted in an organized Cat A and Cat B order. https://nbdhmt.org/forms/CHRN_Experience_Log.pdf
 - No certificate will be counted unless it specifically states how many education hours have been approved.
 - **HBO education which has been approved for nursing contact hours will be recognized as Category A content.**
- Proof of RN license
- Proof of BNA/UHMS membership (for discount)

Expired CHRN Certification-

- Completed recertification application including attendance of approved 40-hour training course in the last 5 years (or 40 hours of Category A hours in the last 4 years). Please see recertification guidelines.
- Retesting is no longer required.
- Will have to pay reinstatement fee to NBDHMT.

CHRN, CHT/RN Preceptor guidelines: The Baromedical Nurses Association Certification Board (BNACB) has developed the following preceptor tool for all CHRN or CHT/RN that are designated preceptors not directly working with a new hyperbaric nurse requesting certification exam. Preceptors will use these guidelines, with a signature confirmation you

have completed preceptorship with this RN and are recommending approval for certification testing. The Baromedical Nurses Association (BNA) has multiple references and networking links at hyperbaricnurses.org that we strongly encourage you to review.

The certification board wants to recognize your dedication to preceptor nurses and values your expertise and time. BNACB will award each CHRN 4 Cat A hours per applicant up to a total of 8 Cat A hours for recertification. This signed guideline must be submitted by all applicants.

1. Applicant has reviewed BNA nursing guidelines of care (BNA website)
2. Risks reviewed
3. Side effects reviewed (such as) oxygen toxicity, barotrauma, ear clearing techniques.
4. Safety guidelines reviewed (such as) importance of time-out safety checks before treatments, grounding procedures, material allowed, etc.
5. Safety drills have been completed; see BNA website for examples
6. Applicant has reviewed and discussed importance of nursing assessment prior to HBO treatments.
7. Discuss comorbidities of patients and how this may affect patients in the hyperbaric environment.
8. Applicant has demonstrated teaching and plan of care for patients receiving hyperbaric oxygen therapy.
9. Applicant has reviewed current NFPA 99 Chapter 14
10. Applicant has reviewed dive tables

Signature of CHRN or CHT/RN Preceptor _____ Date _____

Signature RN Applicant _____ Date _____