



Catholic Healthcare West

**Ask the Expert**  
*Arizona Republic*

**Brian Paterick, M.D.**  
**Medical Director, Hyperbaric Oxygen Center**

**Q: I was recently injured in an accident and my doctor suggested hyperbaric oxygen therapy for a slow healing wound. What can you tell me about this therapy?**

**A:** Hyperbaric oxygen therapy provides patients with 100 percent oxygen at two to two-and-a-half times greater than the normal pressure in our atmosphere.

When you breathe the pure oxygen at this increased atmospheric pressure, your blood can carry more oxygen to the organs and tissues in your body. This kind of therapy can help wounds and infections to heal faster. It is especially helpful for people who have diabetic ulcers, bone infections and other serious infections, crush injuries or injuries that affect circulation. It may also be used to help people with burns, radiation injuries, skin grafts, air embolisms and decompression sickness, which is caused when scuba divers surface too quickly.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy can be performed in a monoplace hyperbaric oxygen chamber or in a hyperbaric oxygen multiplace chamber with several other people depending upon where you receive treatment. Each individual treatment plan varies, but a plan typically consists of daily treatment session of two hours with the total treatment plan timeframe extending over a four to six week period. This treatment plan timeframe requires a commitment from the patient as well as the patient's support system when transportation arrangements need to be secured.

Chandler Regional Medical Center is home to the Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Oxygen Center, which has earned the designation as an accredited clinical hyperbaric medicine facility. It is the only center of its kind in Arizona and one of 32 in the nation to receive this prestigious recognition from the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, the international scientific organization for hyperbaric medicine.

To learn more, please call 480.728.3701 or visit [ChandlerRegional.org](http://ChandlerRegional.org).

*Brian Paterick, M.D., is Medical Director of the Hyperbaric Oxygen Center and is a wound care specialist with Chandler Regional Medical Center's Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Oxygen Center. To learn more, please call 480.728.3701. For a doctor referral, please call ResourceLink toll-free at 1.877.728.5414.*