



DIVING & HYPERBARIC MEDICINE

Telephone: 9431 2233

'GP Hotline': outside normal business hours on call medical officer, Page through Switchboard 9431 3333

Head of Department: Robert Wong

SERVICES

The Department of Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine is the Western Australian State Referral Service for Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine. The unit offers a 24/7 emergency service treating a wide variety of both diving and non-diving related conditions.

Examples of types of Cases (NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LIST):

- Decompression illness (DCI)
- Arterial gas embolism - diving related or iatrogenic
- Prevention of osteoradionecrosis prior to dental work in those who have previously had mandibular irradiation
- Crush injuries, compartment syndrome, traumatic swelling
- Poisoning caused by cellular toxins such as carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulphide, cyanide or methylene chloride
- Enhancement of healing in selected problem wounds particularly radiation tissue injuries and diabetic wounds
- Soft tissue infections in immune compromised hosts (eg diabetes mellitus)
- Necrotising fasciitis including clostridial gas gangrene
- Progressive dermal gangrene
- Preparation for skin grafts and flaps in vascular compromised tissue
- Radiation damaged bone/soft tissue, preparation or irradiated tissue for grafting
- Refractory osteomyelitis

For many conditions early referral is the key to successful treatment.

REFERRAL

GP's can refer direct to the department. We recommend you phone first to discuss management options. This is particularly important if the referral is urgent. **Advice** regarding "Fitness to Dive" - GP's can telephone 9431 2233 (in hours) to discuss with a staff member regarding a potential diver's status of fitness for compressed air diving. Complex cases could be referred to be assessed by one of our staff members.

Urgent: Priority '0', requires review in first available clinic.

Please phone the Registrar via switchboard on 9431 3333.

Please fax the referral, clearly marked "urgent" with any attached reports to Fax 9431 2009, ensuring that a fax header clearly identifies patient name, clinic referred to, appointment date and total number of pages.

The registrar may request a referral be faxed directly to clinic if patient attending within 48hrs. Please also send the original by post marked with "Faxed" including date that it was Faxed.

Routine General Referral: Priority 1-3 (ie within 30-365 days) must be sent via mail addressed to:

Outpatient Central Receiving Office
B10 Fremantle Hospital and Health Service
PO Box 480
Fremantle WA 6959

[Teaching Hospital Outpatient Referral Form](#) preferred;
to order a hard copy referral pad: Fax request to Fax 9431 2009

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