

Saint John Zone

Title: Emergency Hyperbaric Medicine Referral/Consultation Process

Section:

SOP No.:

Effective Date: June 25, 2014

PURPOSE

Known or suspected dive injury that may require recompression therapy:

- Decompression sickness (DCS) Types I or II
- Arterial Gas Embolism
- Possible contaminated gas (CO)

Directly Affected

All Saint John Area EDs

PROCESS

Equipment/Materials

After initiating 100% oxygen therapy, call the Dive Medicine experts for advice:

- Halifax hyperbaric MD on call (Medical Director is Dr. Debbie Pestell)
 - Monday-Friday 07:00-22:00 - (902) 473.7998 or (902) 225 8214
 - After hours (902) 473.2220 (QE2 Switchboard)
- Divers Alert Network (DAN) anytime: (919) 684.9111

Nearest Dive Chamber is in Halifax NS

Process

Be ready to relay the following information during the phone call:

- ☞ Symptom onset and progression
- ☞ Dive profile (Depth, Time, Gas used, # of dives in pas 72 hours)
- ☞ Difficulty with ears on descent/ascent
- ☞ Diver profile – Medical history, medications, drug use, commercial or recreational diver
- ☞ Physical exam findings – skin, MSK, respiratory, FULL neurological

REFERENCES

Vann RD, Butler FK, Mitchell SJ, Moon RE [Decompression illness.](#), Lancet. 2011 Jan 8;377(9760):153-64..

Replaces Document(s) previous Dive Injury Management document

Original Approval			
Date	Original Author(s)	Approved by	Title
2013	Dr. Andrew Lohoar	M K Howlett MD	Head DEM
Revision/Review			
Date	Description of Change(s) and Author(s)	Authorized by	Title
June 25, 2014	Updated new contact information, added reference	M K Howlett MD	Head Dept of EM