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Nursing hyperbaric patients in NHS Scotland: Challenges under pressure

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NHS Scotland Hyperbaric Medicine Service: NHS Grampian hosts the NHS Scotland nationally designated hyperbaric service in Aberdeen. The hyperbaric medical unit in NHS Grampian is a BHA category 1 unit which means that we have the ability to treat critically ill patients in an intensive care setting. In this session we will discuss our national treatment indications (excluding diving therapies) and set out our processes for delivering a national service. We will then go on to discuss the practical challenges of service delivery.

The Nursing Challenge: Nursing patients in the hyperbaric

chamber presents particular challenges. These include physical challenges working in a tightly confined space, the effects of pressure on people and equipment during the delivery of care and particular medical challenges with the varied nature of conditions that we treat. In addition the resources that are immediately available in a hospital environment may not be immediately available in the hyperbaric chamber and there are limits on the equipment we can use due to risks from pressure and fire. We will discuss our staffing model which supports this treatment capability.

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