APTIVA HEALTH

June 27, 2023

Kentucky General Assembly
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

I am writing in support of treatment efforts and state funding for Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) for Veterans suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). As a brief overview, I am an Emergency Medicine physician licensed and practicing in the state of Kentucky for the past two decades. I am cofounder, President and medical Director at Aptiva Health, a multi-specialty group that cares for acute injuries in both the Lexington and Louisville markets. I have cared for more than 100,000 patients in my career and have specialty training as a traumatologist and concussion expert. I am well positioned to care for and comment on patients suffering from concussion, post-concussion symptoms and treatment of the same.

In my career I have taken care of many patients, Veterans and non-Veterans, specifically suffering from concussion and post-concussion symptoms. We have treated many different disciplines within the Armed Forces, including high-level combat Veterans and other specialists, such as Navy SEALs, with great success. Although we use many different treatment modalities to assist these patients, HBOT has had the most profound effect on our patient population. We see marked improvements in these patients, not only symptoms but the overall mood and decrease in level of despair and hopelessness that often come with other failed treatment attempts. These benefits have been well-documented in the numerous research studies conducted by leading experts in HBOT therapy for mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI), one being Paul Harch from whom we have derived our treatment protocols.

My experience with HBOT has additional benefits beyond symptom improvement mentioned above. Incidental benefits of cost savings are appreciated by decreasing the amount of Emergency Department visits, provider office visits, prescription medications, opioid addiction treatment and similar healthcare costs. Tangentially, other cost savings are realized through decreases in Veteran incarceration, suicide and homelessness.

In summary, I will reiterate my support for state funding for HBOT for Veterans suffering from mild traumatic brain injury. I believe that brain healing can be achieved with the use of oxygen under pressure, allowing our Veterans to return to their previous sense of normalcy. If I can be of any further assistance or you would like me to speak more formally in person, please do not hesitate to reach out to me on my personal phone at 859-312-8509.

Kind Regards,

Thomas M. Huhn, MD
Medical Director, Aptiva Health

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WoundCare ADVANTAGE

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July 12, 2023

Kentucky General Assembly
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Layne Hazel I am a Program Director for Wound Care Advantage In Winchester, Kentucky I work in a comprehensive wound center treating and managing a variety of wounds, both acute and chronic. We practice traditional wound care as well as hyperbaric oxygen therapy for the patients with qualifying indications.

Over the past two years, I have worked closely with Eric Koleda and our Veterans with proven Traumatic Brain injuries and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder using Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy The results I have personally seen from patients who have received this therapy have been nothing short of remarkable. The veterans' overall quality of life has improved significantly I have seen them go from being non-verbal, withdrawn, with no eye contact, on numerous medications, to being verbal, very communitive, and the patients have reported being able to discontinue some of their medications. All of the patients we have treated have reported they feel "the best they have felt" With the research done throughout the industry and the research and support of the HBOT4Vets foundation, the HBOT has proven to be an optimal treatment for our veterans to regain their cognitive and overall health, as well as give them back a normal life.

Treating these patients can be very costly, as this treatment is not currently a covered treatment for TBI and PTSD per CMS guidelines. Without the help from Mr Koleda's organization, these patients would have not have had the means to be able to afford this therapy More importantly, would have not been able to experience the life changing outcomes they have.

Respectfully,

Layne Hazel

Layne Hazel
Program Director

Wound Care ADVANTAGE

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July 5th, 2023

Kentucky General Assembly
700 Capital Avenue, Frankfort, KY 40601

To whom it may concern,

My name is Michael Curran, Vice President of Clinic Operations for Wound Care Advantage. Wound Care Advantage is a wound care and hyperbaric management and consulting company out of Sierra Madre, California. We work across the country helping our clients succeed in the wound care and hyperbaric industry by providing support in various areas of operations to include technology, management, industry leading experts, clinical support, compliance support, billing and coding, financial analysis, research, EMR support and implementation, and various other areas of the business. Our goal is to reach patient populations, always put patients first and lead clinics to having a successful practice clinically, financially and provide the best outcomes.

Throughout my 10 plus year career in healthcare as a hyperbaric technician and manager I have come across a fair amount of patients in need of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for traumatic brain injury. Treating these patients can be challenging as it is not a covered indication by insurance providers. This leaves the costs on the patients or organizations such as HBOT4Vets limiting the ability to treat these patients. Having treated many patients with multiple organizations with hyperbaric oxygen therapy I can say that the results from treatment have been seen first hand. Patient outcomes often show increased brain function causing the patients to be able to get back to a more fruitful life. We have seen patients go from near full disability back to full functioning members of society With the utilization of hyperbarics mechanisms of actions such as angiogenesis, increased oxygenation and saturation of oxygen this helps increase blood flow to the brain thus causing healing. With the research done throughout the industry and with HBOT4Vets we have seen the results in the patients we have treated. This can be shown through the changes in their lives as well as changes in brain scans, cognitive testing results and changes in their overall health state.

On behalf of myself and Wound Care Advantage we support any efforts for further funding, coverage and access to hyperbaric oxygen therapy for patients suffering from Traumatic Brain

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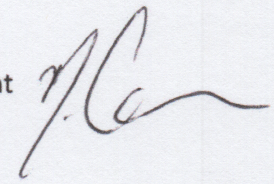
Injury. Through participation in various IRBs and review of research throughout the HBOT community it is documented that there are clinical results associated with the utilization of HBOT for TBI.

Regards,
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