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From: Robert Bartlett, MD, CPE, UHM, FAPWHc
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To: American Diabetes Association BOD
APWH Physician Membership
Council for Medical Education & Testing

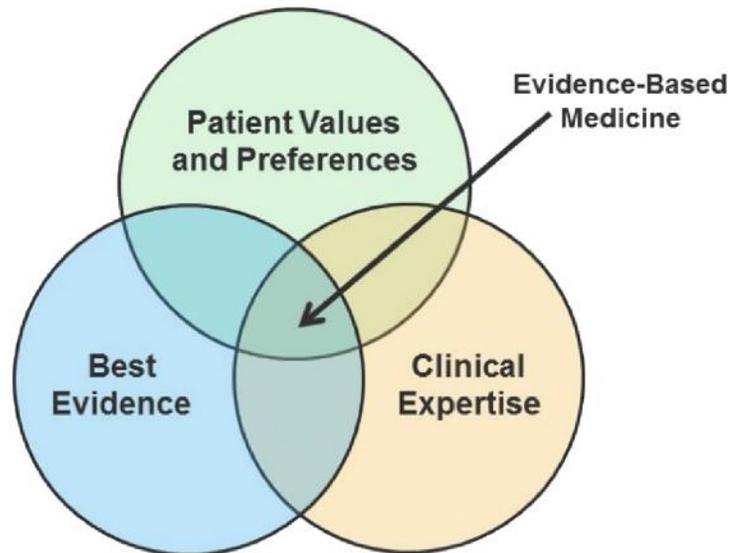
I was recently made aware of ADA's pending statement on the use of hyperbaric oxygen (HBO) therapy. I commend the ADA for its efforts to condense and distill large volumes of information into practical guidelines – provided the reader is given the courtesy and transparency to examine the methodology by which these guidelines are produced. On the matter of HBO therapy, there is no disclosure, which suggests this is more of an "opinion" subject to personal bias. As you are aware there are several prospective randomized trials (level I evidence) which supersede retrospective studies. I will presume the ADA has conducted a review of the evidence. However, I would point out that today most professional societies take into account other factors before publishing their guidelines.

Practicing evidence-based medicine is important because this model of care offers clinicians a way to achieve the Triple Aim's objectives of improved quality, improved patient satisfaction, and reduced costs. The creation of useful guidelines requires more than a review of available levels of evidence. It must also include a careful consideration of other important factors. The multidimensional GRADE approach (Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation) takes into account additional factors beyond the quality of evidence. For this reason, most professional societies have switched to the GRADE methodology as the basis for their recommendations.

Judgments about evidence and recommendations in healthcare are complex.

Recommendations to use, or not use a therapy, should be based on the trade-offs between desirable consequences of following a recommendation on the one hand, and undesirable consequences on the other. If desirable consequences outweigh undesirable consequences, decision makers will recommend an option and vice versa. The uncertainty associated with the trade-off between the desirable and undesirable consequences will determine the strength of recommendations. This requires an evaluation of the absolute

effects of both the benefits and harms and their importance. The greater the net benefit or net harm the more likely is a strong recommendation for or against the option



In closing I would ask the ADA to consider using the contemporary GRADE methodology adopted by other professional societies. From a collegial perspective you should also provide a complete disclosure of your supporting arguments / rationale for your conclusions and recommendations.

On behalf of those patients with diabetes, thank you again for the work you do.

Respectfully,

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