

SEC. 702. PARTNERSHIPS WITH NON-FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES TO PROVIDE HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY TO VETERANS AND STUDIES ON THE USE OF SUCH THERAPY FOR TREATMENT OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.

(a) Partnerships To Provide Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy To Veterans.—

(1) USE OF PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Center for Compassionate Innovation within the Office of Community Engagement of the Department of Veterans Affairs, may enter into partnerships with non-Federal Government entities to provide hyperbaric oxygen treatment to veterans to research the effectiveness of such therapy.

(2) TYPES OF PARTNERSHIPS.—Partnerships entered into under paragraph (1) may include the following:

(A) Partnerships to conduct research on hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

(B) Partnerships to review research on hyperbaric oxygen therapy provided to nonveterans.

(C) Partnerships to create industry working groups to determine standards for research on hyperbaric oxygen therapy.

(D) Partnerships to provide to veterans hyperbaric oxygen therapy for the purposes of conducting research on the effectiveness of such therapy.

(3) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL FUNDING.—Federal Government funding may be used to coordinate and administer the partnerships under this subsection but may not be used to carry out activities conducted under such partnerships.

(b) Review Of Effectiveness Of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Center for Compassionate Innovation, shall begin using an objective and quantifiable method to review the effectiveness and applicability of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, such as through the use of a device approved or cleared by the Food and Drug Administration that assesses traumatic brain injury by tracking eye movement.

(c) Systematic Review Of Use Of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy To Treat Certain Conditions.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Center for Compassionate Innovation, shall commence the conduct of a systematic review of published research literature on off-label use of hyperbaric oxygen therapy to treat post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury among veterans and nonveterans.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The review conducted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the current parameters for research on the use by the Department of Veterans Affairs of hyperbaric oxygen therapy, including—

(i) tests and questionnaires used to determine the efficacy of such therapy; and

(ii) metrics for determining the success of such therapy.

(B) A comparative analysis of tests and questionnaires used to study post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury in other research conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs, other Federal agencies, and entities outside the Federal Government.

(3) COMPLETION OF REVIEW.—The review conducted under paragraph (1) shall be completed not later than 180 days after the date of the commencement of the review.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the review conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the review.

(d) Follow-Up Study.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the completion of the review conducted under subsection (c), the Secretary, in consultation with the Center for Compassionate Innovation, shall commence the conduct of a study on all individuals receiving hyperbaric oxygen therapy through the current pilot program of the Department for the provision of hyperbaric oxygen therapy to veterans to determine the efficacy and effectiveness of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall include the review and publication of any data and conclusions resulting from research conducted by an authorized provider of hyperbaric oxygen therapy for veterans through the pilot program described in such paragraph.

(3) COMPLETION OF STUDY.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall be completed not later than three years after the date of the commencement of the study.

(4) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after completing the study conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall include the recommendation of the Secretary with respect to whether or not hyperbaric oxygen therapy should be made available to all veterans with traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder.