

# Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine: the very best in wound care

Hallmark Health System's (HHS) Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine has treated some dramatic cases where patients finally found relief from the debilitating agony of a wound that would not heal. Located at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, the Center provides very advanced and comprehensive care for all types of chronic wounds including diabetic ulcers, venous and pressure ulcers as well as wounds caused by poor blood flow or other underlying medical conditions.

A year ago, Burlington resident Paula Benard had a cancerous tumor on her tongue that led to surgery and rounds of chemotherapy and radiation. Although Benard felt some relief after her treatment, she was still unable to swallow because of a persistent wound in her mouth that forced her to remain on a feeding tube.

Her doctor referred her to the Center and there she received treatment five days a week for six weeks in the oxygen chamber. Today she is 80 percent healed, cancer free and happy to be on the road to recovery.

Benard is very grateful to the attentive staff who guided her through these treatments to restore her sense of well-being. "My experience at the Center was excellent," she said. "Everyone involved with my care was wonderful."

Ina Cherka, of Malden, had an ulcer on the bottom of her foot that became infected and would not heal. Her podiatrist recommended that she try the hyperbaric treatments at the Center.

"I was afraid I would lose part or all of my foot and lose mobility," Cherka explains. "Once I was in the hyperbaric oxygen chamber, the staff checked on me frequently and kept me informed about my treatment. The staff in the Center are very caring and the best experts in wound healing."

Cherka is very thankful that HHS provides this sophisticated level of treatment. She has increased her mobility and religiously goes to physical therapy to restore her strength and mobility.



Ina Cherkas, (l.), a former patient, recently returned to the Center to give a flowering plant as a small token of appreciation to the clinicians that helped her get back on her feet again including Alfonso Serrano, MD, the Center's medical director.

The Center features two hyperbaric oxygen chambers. If a patient's wounds qualify for this type of treatment the patient breathes 100 percent oxygen under pressure while resting comfortably inside a roomy, plexiglass chamber. This non-invasive, painless treatment known as hyperbaric oxygen therapy, increases the oxygen level in the bloodstream and enhances the body's natural healing.

Alfonso Serrano, MD serves as the medical director for the Center. A multi-disciplinary team of highly-skilled physicians, nurses and specialists helps patients get their lives back by concentrating on non-healing wounds, ones that have resisted healing after traditional treatments.

**For more information on the Center, call (781) 979-3500 or visit [www.hallmarkhealth.org](http://www.hallmarkhealth.org) and select "Programs."**