INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY

Candidate Handbook

Associate Hyperbaric Nurse (AHN)

Board Certification Examination

Eligibility and prerequisites

Applying

The examination and its content

Results, retakes and issuance

Renewal and conduct

International Board of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy · Coral Springs, Florida · ibhbot.org

Edition 1.1 · October 2026

1. About This Credential

The International Board of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (IBHBOT) is a professional certification and registry authority for hyperbaric oxygen therapy and diving medicine. It sets the standard for each credential it issues, examines candidates against that standard, and keeps the register of certificate holders. Training is delivered by Board-recognized course providers. Certification is the Board's.

The Associate Hyperbaric Nurse credential is for the registered nurse or licensed practical nurse caring for the hyperbaric patient: the pre-treatment nursing assessment and daily screen, glucose management in diabetic patients, medication review, ear and sinus assessment, monitoring of acutely ill patients, lines and infusions under pressure, recognition of complications, patient teaching, and nursing documentation.

This handbook takes you through the whole process: who is eligible, how to apply, what the examination covers and how it is delivered, how results and retakes work, and how the credential is issued, used and renewed. Read it before you apply.

The Pathway at a Glance

Step	What happens
1. Meet the prerequisites	Hold the license the credential requires, if any, and complete the recognized course.
2. Apply	Create your IBHBOT account, apply at ibhbot.org and pay the examination fee.
3. Eligibility review	IBHBOT reviews your documents against the eligibility requirements.
4. Examination access	Once approved, the online examination opens in your account for 14 days.
5. Sit the examination	100 items, 120 minutes, closed book, taken online in one sitting.
6. Result	Pass at 80 percent. If you do not pass, you may retake after seven days.
7. Credential issued	Your credential is issued and you are entered on the IBHBOT register.
8. Renewal	Renew every 36 months.

2. Eligibility and Prerequisites

Eligibility is decided from the documents you submit with your application. IBHBOT requires nothing beyond what this section states.

Requirement	AHN
Who sits this examination	Registered nurses (RN) and licensed practical nurses (LPN).
License or certification	A current registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN) license.
Education	Successful completion of the Introduction to Hyperbaric Medicine course from a Board-recognized course provider.

Documents you submit

- Your Certificate of Completion in Introduction to Hyperbaric Medicine.
- A government-issued photo ID.
- The details of your current RN or LPN license, entered on the application: license number, state or jurisdiction of issue, and expiration date.

IBHBOT offers three credentials on the Introduction to Hyperbaric Medicine course, each matched to the candidate's profession: the Associate Hyperbaric Technician, the Associate Hyperbaric Nurse for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, and the Hyperbaric Medicine Provider for physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners. Apply for the examination that matches the license you hold.

3. Applying

1. Go to **ibhbot.org** and select **Apply**.
2. Choose the **Associate Hyperbaric Nurse (AHN)** examination.
3. Create your IBHBOT account, or sign in if you already have one. Your application, payment, examination and certificate are all kept in this account.
4. Complete the application. You will need your full legal name exactly as it appears on your government-issued photo ID, your mailing address, email and telephone number, your course completion date and course provider, and your license or certification type, number, issuing authority and expiration date.
5. Upload the documents listed in Section 2.
6. Agree to the attestations, confirming that you completed a Board-recognized course and that the information you have given is true.
7. Pay the examination fee at checkout, or enter the exam voucher code your employer gave you. Current fees are published on ibhbot.org.

IBHBOT reviews the application, usually within 10 business days. If anything is missing, you will be told what is needed. When the application is approved, the examination opens in your account for 14 days. You can follow each step on the My Applications page of your account.

Fees and refunds

If your application is not approved, the examination fee is refunded in full. Once you are approved to test, the fee is not refundable, whether you pass, do not pass or do not take the examination.

Name and contact details

Your certificate and register entry use the name on your application. If your name or contact details change before the credential is issued, tell IBHBOT so the record matches.

4. The Examination

Element	Specification
Format	100 multiple-choice items. Each has four choices and one best answer.
Time allowed	120 minutes, in a single sitting
Delivery	Online, through the learning platform IBHBOT designates
Conditions	Closed book. You sit the examination alone, without notes, books, other people or any other resource. A basic calculator may be used for calculation items.
Passing standard	80 percent: 80 of 100 items correct
Scoring	Every item carries equal value. There is no penalty for a wrong answer, so answer every item.
Your paper	Items are drawn from a larger bank, domain by domain, so every sitting follows the published content outline and no two candidates sit the same paper.

Before you start

- Use a reliable computer and internet connection, and set aside the full 120 minutes in a quiet place where you will not be interrupted.
- Have a basic calculator to hand. Phones, and calculators that store text, are not used during the examination.
- Once you start, the clock runs until you submit or time expires.

Answering the items

Many items are scenarios. Read the stem to the end, find the decision being asked for, and answer as the role this credential describes. Where two answers look defensible, the one that is safe, follows procedure and is documented is the one to choose. Every distractor was written as the answer a capable person gives when reasoning from incomplete information, so read all four choices before you decide.

Integrity

You sit the examination on your honor. Before you begin you confirm that the work will be your own, done without assistance, and that you will not copy, record or share any examination content. A credential obtained in breach of that attestation is subject to revocation (Section 9).

5. What the Examination Covers

The examination is built on the Introduction to Hyperbaric Medicine course and weighted to its published examination blueprint. The weighting reflects where the risk in the specialty sits: mechanisms and indications lead because every clinical decision descends from them, and safety is second because an error there affects everyone in the vessel at once.

Content domain	Share	Items
Mechanisms of action and indications	20%	20
Hyperbaric safety and emergency procedures	17%	17
Chamber systems and equipment	14%	14
Gas physics, physiology and decompression theory	14%	14
Contraindications and complications	11%	11
Applied clinical and technical practice	10%	10
Patient assessment and monitoring	7%	7
Transcutaneous oxygen monitoring	5%	5
Program administration and infection control	2%	2
TOTAL	100%	100

How the items are written for this credential

Every item is written for the nurse. Expect the pre-treatment nursing assessment and daily screen, blood glucose management, medication review, ear and sinus assessment, monitoring of acutely ill patients, infusions and lines under pressure, recognition of oxygen toxicity, barotrauma, hypoglycemia and confinement anxiety, patient teaching, infection prevention and nursing documentation.

Preparing

- Use the blueprint as your revision plan. Spend your time where the weight is.
- Work from your course textbook and workbook. Every item on the examination is answerable from the course material.
- Practice the arithmetic until it is quick: absolute pressure at depth, gas law volume changes, partial pressures and gas supply duration.
- The examination items are not the course quiz items. Knowing the quiz answers is not preparation; understanding why they are right is.

6. Results and Retakes

Your result is reported when you submit the examination, as pass or not pass with your percentage score.

If you do not pass	
Waiting period	At least seven days between attempts
Attempts	Up to three attempts in all
Your next paper	Each retake is a different paper, drawn from the bank in the same proportions
After a third unsuccessful attempt	Contact IBHBOT before applying again

Apply for a retake the same way you applied for the first attempt. Each attempt is a new application and examination fee.

7. Issuance and the Register

When you pass and your application is complete, IBHBOT issues the Associate Hyperbaric Nurse credential and enters you on the IBHBOT register. Your certificate shows your name, the credential, your credential number, the date of issue and the expiration date, which is 36 months from issue. The certificate is emailed to you and can be downloaded at any time from the My Applications page of your account.

The register is IBHBOT's record of current certificate holders. Employers, facilities and clients verify a credential and its standing through IBHBOT. Your certificate shows that the credential was issued; the register shows whether it is current.

Using the credential

Write the credential as Associate Hyperbaric Nurse, abbreviated AHN. Use it while it is current, and only at the level you hold.

8. Renewal

The credential runs on a 36-month cycle from the date of issue. To renew, before your expiration date:

1. Keep your RN or LPN license current.
2. Complete a Board-approved recertification course, or 48 hours of qualifying continuing education in hyperbaric medicine, within the cycle.

Submit your renewal on ibhbot.org with the supporting records. Renewal resets the 36-month cycle.

9. Professional Conduct

Certificate holders maintain their competence, practice ethically, represent their credentials accurately and comply with IBHBOT policy and renewal requirements. The credential is held alongside your license, employer policy and medical direction, which together govern what you do in practice.

Misrepresenting a credential, falsifying documents submitted to IBHBOT, sharing examination content, or fabricating continuing education, refresher or contact hours may result in suspension or revocation of the credential.

10. Contact

	International Board of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy
Website	ibhbot.org: applications, payment, renewal and credential verification
Location	Coral Springs, Florida, USA

IBHBOT may revise this handbook as its standards evolve. The edition in force on the day you apply applies to your examination.