

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT): Guideline for Adults and Children

Site Applicability

VCH and PHC sites where NPWT is approved for use

Practice Level

Profession	Advanced Skill (requiring additional education)
Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy and Continence (NSWOC), Nurse Practitioner (NP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon successful completion of additional NPWT education provided by their specialty, NSWOC may: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a client-specific order and establish the wound care treatment plan for other nurses to follow. Care for a wound with NPWT Follow this DST
Registered Nurse (RN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon successful completion of additional education listed under required education, RNs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care for wound with NPWT when there is a client specific order in place. Develop a wound care treatment plan based on a client specific order. Follow this DST
Registered Psychiatric Nurse (RPN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon successful completion of additional education listed under required education, RPNs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care for wound with NPWT when there is a client specific order and a wound treatment plan established by an RN. Follow this DST
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upon successful completion of additional education listed under required education, LPNs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care for a wound with NPWT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> when it is stable with a predictable healing trajectory, when there is a client specific order, AND when there is an established wound care treatment plan in place. Follow this DST

Required Education:

- RNs/RPNs/LPNs** must successfully complete the following education:
 - Level One Monitor and Manage to care for any NPWT device:
 - [Additional Negative Pressure Wound Therapy: Monitor and Manage](#)
 - Level Two: Dressing Application to apply a NPWT device:
 - PHC:** [Negative Pressure Wound Therapy \(VAC\) Certification](#)

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- **VCH Acute Sites:** [VCH VAC Basic / Advanced Education – \(Acute Care Nursing\)](#)
- **VCH Community Sites:** [VCH Introduction to Negative Pressure Wound Therapy – \(Community Nursing\)](#)
- **LPNs** must also complete [Licensed Practical Nurses – Care of Wounds with a Non-Visible Wound Bed](#) in addition to above learning modules.

Requirements

A Physician, NP, NSWOC or Wound Clinician order is required for the initiation of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy using either a reusable machine or a disposable device.

Need to Know

The Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee (PNSWC) developed this DST to provide a provincial standard for all patients/clients/residents who are having NPWT.

This DST covers all NPWT except open abdominal therapy.

Guideline

The Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee (PNSWC) developed this DST to provide a provincial standard for wound care for all patients, clients and residents who are undergoing Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT).

The document outlines the assessment, care and management to be followed for all NPWT devices.

The PNSWC has also developed specific procedural documents for each of the different devices (see Guidelines) and educational resources ([see Patient and Family Education section](#)).

Guideline: [Negative Pressure Wound Therapy \(NPWT\) for Adults and Children](#)

Documentation

See [Guideline](#)

Patient and Family Education

Education pamphlets available through Patient Health Information Materials

Evaluation

See [Guideline](#)

Related Documents

See [Guidelines](#)

References

See [Guidelines](#)

Appendices

See [Guideline](#)

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	<p>The Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee in collaboration with Regional Skin and Wound Committees from NHA, IHA, FHA, VIHA, PHSA and VCH/PHC</p> <p>NSWOC, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Skin and Wound, PHC NSWOC, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Wound Ostomy Continence, VCH Nurse Clinician, Burn Plastic Trauma Unit, VGH NSWOC, VGH NSWOC, LGH NSWOC, Nurse Practitioner- Long Term Care, Residential Program, VCH NSWOC, Pender Community Health Centre, VCH NSWOC, Nursing Informatics, Clinical Lead (Pixalere) IMITS - Clinical Solutions - Community Applications, VCH Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee, VCH</p> <p>*NSWOC = Nurse Specializing in Wound Ostomy Continence</p>	

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