

# Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT): Procedure for Reusable VAC Ultra4 or ActiVAC Dressing Application

## Site Applicability

VCH and PHC sites where NPWT is approved for use

## Practice Level (additional education competencies under development)

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

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**Required Education:**

- **RNs, RPNs or 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](#)
    - **VCH Acute Sites:** [VCH VAC Basic and 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.

RNs, RPNs and LPNs require a client specific order from a physician, NP or NSWOC: LPNs also require an established wound treatment to be in place.

VCH and PHC nurses will follow this procedure developed by the Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee (see procedure link below) when using the VAC Ultra4 or ActiVAC devices.

**Need to Know**

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

This procedure covers VAC Ultra4 (with or without Instill or Dwell (Veraflo)) and ActiVAC devices.

**Procedure**

The Provincial DST Procedure: NPWT Reusable VAC Ultra4 or ActiVAC Dressing Application provides instruction on applying or removing of NPWT dressings as well as instruction for using bridging or Y-connecting of wounds, the use of Instill or Dwell therapy, and how to manage frank bleeding.

- Procedure: [NPWT Reusable VAC Ultra4 or ActiVAC Dressing Application](#)

**Expected Patient, Client, or Resident Outcomes**

Patient, Client or Resident with a wound determined to be appropriate for this dressing type will have his or her wound managed according to the procedure set by the PNSWC.

**Documentation**

Done as part of the documentation for care that was provided as per the treatment plan or care plan.

**Patient and Family Education**

Patient and Family Educational Pamphlets are available on PHEM

**Evaluation**

See [Procedure](#) for Client Outcomes

**Related Documents**

See [Provincial Procedure](#).

**References**

See [Provincial Procedure](#).

**Definitions**

See [Provincial Procedure](#).

**Appendices**

See [Provincial Procedure](#).

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<b>Approved By:</b> <i>(committee or position)</i>	PHC	VCH
	<b>Endorsed by:</b> Professional Practice Standards Committee	<b>Endorsed by:</b> Vice President, Professional Practice and Chief Clinical Information Officer
<b>Owners:</b> <i>(optional)</i>	PHC and VCH	
	<p>The Provincial Nursing Skin and Wound Committee in collaboration with Regional Skin and Wound Committees from NHA, IHA, FHA, VIHA, PHSA and VCH or PHC</p> <p>Clinical Nurse Specialist, Wound, Ostomy and Skin Care, Professional Practice and Nursing, PHC  Clinical Nurse Specialist, Wound, Ostomy, Continence, Professional Practice, 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>	