



Additional Education Requirements & Competencies

Competency Checklist

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Level Two: Dressing Application

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) has two levels of competency:

- **NPWT Level One: Monitor & Manage** - for nurses responsible for the monitoring and managing of patients/clients/residents who are receiving NPWT.
- **NPWT Level Two: Dressing Application** - for nurses responsible for applying NPWT dressings.

Indications for Use of this Document

- This document guides the testing of nurses' knowledge in NPWT dressing application principles and their skill in doing unit/site specific NPWT dressings.

Practice Level:

- In British Columbia: to apply a NPWT dressing, Registered Nurses (RNs), Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs), and Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs), in accordance with the British Columbia College of Nurses and Midwives' scope of practice for their specific designation and as per their Health Authority(HA)/agency policy, must:
 - Have a policy supporting their designation in applying NPWT dressings.
 - Have HA/agency approved NPWT decision support tools, (e.g. guideline and procedures).
 - Successfully complete additional education for monitoring & managing a NPWT system.
 - Have successfully completed the additional education requirements for NPWT dressing application.
 - Have client-specific NPWT orders.
 - In addition, LPNs follow an established NPWT wound treatment plan.
- In the Yukon Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses are to refer to organizational policy and practice in accordance with regulatory bodies.

Pre-requisites:

- Basic Wound Care education as defined by the HA/agency.
- NPWT Level One: Monitor & Manage Additional Education Requirements.

Lesson Plan:

The [lesson plan](#) consists of learning activities to assist in knowledge acquisition and skill development in how to apply a NPWT dressing for an open wound or closed incision and how to manage skin graft dressing.

Competency Checklist:

A checklist ([page 3](#)) consists of both verbalization of NPWT dressing principles that are applicable for all dressings regardless of the NPWT device being used and demonstration of skill in doing a device-specific NPWT dressing. The nurse needs to be competent for only those NPWT dressings that are done on their specific unit/site.

Definitions:

Additional Education Requirements (AERs) - Structured education (e.g., a workshop, course or program of study) designed so that nurses can attain the competencies required to carry out a specific activity as part of nursing practice. Additional education builds on the entry-level competencies of the nurse, identifies the competencies expected of the nurse, includes both knowledge and skill to practice and includes an objective evaluation of the nurses' competency by a nursing mentor¹.

Competency - The integration and application of knowledge, skills and judgment required for safe and appropriate performance in an individual's practice¹.

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) - An advanced wound therapy that delivers either continuous or intermittent/dynamic negative sub-atmospheric pressure (mmHg) to the wound, incision or graft.

Nurse Mentor - A Clinical Nurse Educator, Nurse Specialized in Wound, Ostomy & Continence (NSWOC), Wound Clinician (WC) or delegated nurse competent in the skill being demonstrated.

References:

1. British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals. (2023 revision). *Nursing standards for RNs and NPs*. Retrieved from https://www.bccnm.ca/Documents/standards_practice/rn/RN_ScopeofPractice.pdf on October 2nd 2023.
2. British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP). (2023 revision). *Scope of practice for licensed practical nurses*. https://www.bccnm.ca/Documents/standards_practice/lpn/LPN_ScopeOfPractice.pdf on October 2nd 2023.

Document Creation/Review

Created By:	British Columbia Provincial Nursing Skin & Wound Committee and NSWOCs/Wound Clinicians from across all Health Authorities.
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Revision Date(s)	
Review Dates(s)	

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Level Two Dressing Application Knowledge Competencies Checklist		
The learner can:	Date Met	Mentor's Initials
1. Articulate the goal of the specific types of NPWT: Open Wound, Closed Incision and Skin Graft.		
2. Describe the site/unit process for obtaining NPWT devices; owned, rented or purchased through Supply Chain.		
3. Identify the components for a NPWT order required for doing the dressing change.		
4. Identify what dressing modifications a nurse may do without an order but which must be communicated to the MRP or the NSWOC/WC as per Health Authority.		
5. Describe client situations which need to be managed prior to the dressing change.		
6. Identify the need for NPWT wound procedural pain management and what to do.		
7. Identify which dressing removal(s) require the device to be turned off for 30 minutes prior to removing the dressing and articulate the rationale to doing or not doing this step for open wound, closed incision and skin graft dressings.		
8. Describe what is a pre-soak, why is this done, for which type of dressing would a pre-soak be done and what solutions can be used for the pre-soak.		
9. Describe methods to assist with dressing removal that minimize MARSI.		
10. Articulate where to find the documented dressing packing count, what pieces are counted in the packing count and what to do should the packing count on dressing removal not be consistent with the documentation.		
11. Articulate the rationale for doing a full wound assessment with each dressing change and what assessment findings assist with determining how to do the dressing.		
12. Identify reasons why NPWT therapy should be continued or discontinued and who to inform if the situation indicates the therapy should be discontinued.		
13. Identify what products could be used to obtain a dressing seal.		
14. Articulate why the periwound skin needs to be protected from the NPWT foam dressings and how to this.		
15. Describe situations where a wound interface is recommended and what interface options could be used.		
16. Describe the appropriate method of filling dead space and the risks with either under-filling or over-filling.		
17. Identify rationale for positioning the tubing for ADLs and safety.		
18. Articulate what issues needs to be reported in the Patient Safety Learning System.		
19. If applicable to unit/site: articulates the cleansing process for a used NPWT multi-use device.		

Nurse Signature: _____ Nurse Initials: _____

Mentor Signature: _____ Mentor's Initials: _____

**Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Level Two
Dressing Application**

Skill Competencies Checklist

Skill The learner:	VACUIta4	ACTIVac	VACVia	Prevena Peel & Place	Prevena Customizable	SNAP	PICO7 PICO14
1. Checks the current NPWT orders.							
2. If pre-soak required, performs soak appropriately.							
3. Gathers the appropriate equipment/supplies.							
4. Checks for the previous packing count.							
5. Sets up work space appropriately.							
6. Utilizes appropriate aseptic technique throughout procedure.							
7. Demonstrates appropriate removal of dressing to prevent MARS!							
8. Counts packing removed.							
9. Performs a full wound assessment.							
10. Demonstrates clipping of hair, if needed.							
11. Cleanses periwound and surrounding area using correct technique and solutions.							
12. Protects the peri-skin and surrounding skin.							
13. Prepares and applies an interface appropriately.							
14. Prepares and applies packing for undermining, and/or sinus/tunnel appropriately.							
15. Prepares and applies wound fillers(s) to the wound cavity appropriately.							
16. Applies film drape/ cover dressing correctly.							
17. Demonstrates correct TRAC pad preparation and application.							

Skill The learner:	VACUlt4	ACTIVac	VACVia	Prevena Peel & Place	Prevena Customizable	SNAP	PICO7 PICO14
18. Programs the NPWT device as per orders and initiates the therapy.							
19. Checks for leaks and troubleshoots appropriately.							
20. Documents on the dressing the count the number of interfaces/ packing/wound filler(s) pieces used in application.							
21. Secures/ anchors the tubing appropriately.							
22. Performs initial Safety Monitoring Check correctly.							
23. Documents dressing procedure as per health authority/agency policy.							
24. Develops or updates the NPWT treatment plan appropriately.							

Record of Competency					
Dressing/Device	Competency Achieved	Needs Review	Mentor's signature	Date	Comments
VACUlt4					
ACTIVac					
VACVia					
Prevena Peel & Place					
Prevena Customizable					
SNAP					
PICO 7/PICO14					

