



Additional Education Requirements/Competencies

Lesson Plan

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 Licenced 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 ([page 3](#)) 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](#) 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.
Publication Date	2023 October
Revision Date(s)	2024 May
Review Dates(s)	

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Level Two Dressing Application Learning Plan			
Learning Activity	Resources	Date Done	Initials
Completed Basic Wound Care education for wound cleansing/packing of visible and non-visible wound bed as per HA/Agency.			
Completed NPWT Level One: NPWT Monitor & Manage Additional Education Requirements & Competencies.			
Determine what types of NPWT dressings are seen within your practice area; open wound, closed incision and/or skin graft.	Discussion with your Clinical Educator/ Nurse Mentor.		
Gain an understanding of the principles needed for NPWT open wound dressing and closed incision/skin graft dressing management.	Review the NPWT provincial Decision Support Tool: Negative Pressure Wound Therapy: Guideline .		
For those devices most commonly used on your unit/site, read the procedure(s) for the steps needed to do the specific dressing(s).	Access the specific provincial NPWT device-specific dressing application procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VACUIta4/ ActiVAC • VACVia • Prevena Peel & Place • Prevena Customizable • SNAP • PICO7/14 		
Review any additional HA/agency specific policies, procedures, guidelines or practice standards for NPWT.	Discuss with your Clinical Educator/ Nurse Mentor.		
Complete the NPWT Level Two learning modules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Wound Dressing Principles (approx. 35mins) and its six videos (approx. 25 mins for all). • Closed Incision & Skin Graft Dressing Management (approx. 20mins). 	The learning modules are found on the following Learning Management Systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHSA Learning Hub • IHA I-Learn • Yukon Learning System 		
Complete the NPWT Level Two Quizzes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Wound Dressing Principles. • Closed Incision & /Skin Graft Dressing Management. 	Quizzes are found with the learning modules on the Learning Management System sites.		
Complete any additional competency validation and/ or compliance requirements of the HA/agency.	Discuss with your Clinical Educator/ Nurse Mentor.		
With your Clinical Educator/Nurse Mentor, complete the NPWT Level Two: Competency Checklist.	NPWT Level Two: Competency Checklist.		

Nurse Signature: _____ Nurse Initials: _____

Nurse Mentor Signature: _____ Mentor Initials: _____