

## **At Home With Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT)**

You have been given this leaflet as you will be going home with Negative Pressure Wound Therapy. You may have already been using the therapy during your inpatient stay, or this may be the first time of use. This information leaflet will provide you with basic information while you are receiving negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT).

### **What is Negative Pressure Wound Therapy?**

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy involves applying a suction force by a vacuum pump across a sealed wound using a foam or gauze interface. This helps your wound by removing any extra fluid, increasing local blood flow, reducing swelling, reducing the risk of infection, and stimulating the wound bed.

### **How long will the therapy be in use?**

The NPWT must be used for the length of time as assessed by the health care professional who is looking after you. They may be able to give an estimated length of time once your wound responds to the therapy. To get the best results for your wound the therapy should be continued for 24hrs a day.

### **How does NPWT feel?**

A slight pulling sensation can often be felt on initialising the vacuum pump this tends to go once the therapy has been in place for a while. If you have increased pain or discomfort you must contact the Health care professional looking after you and let them know. Do not turn off the pump or tamper with the dressing.

### **What do I do if the alarm sounds?**

If the alarm sounds the pump screen must be looked at and instructions given on it followed. If you are unable to resolve the alarm your health care professional must be contacted. Do not wait until your health care professional's next visit as any delay in review and adjustment of the device could result in damage to the wound.

### **On discharge from the Hospital**

When you are leaving to go home you will be given sufficient dressings and canisters for 14 days to take home with you. These are to be given to the Community Nurse Team member who visits you.

For safety reasons we do not recommend driving while using this therapy.

<u>Name</u>	
<u>Date of First Visit at home</u>	
<u>Contact information of Community Team who will be visiting you at home</u>	

### **What you can do**

Make sure that the pump is charged and plugged into the socket without the use of an extension lead; this to reduce any trip hazard

Make sure that extra caution is taken when animals and small children are in close proximity; this to prevent accidents

Make sure the connecting lead from the dressing to the pump is not left dangling; this to prevent you tripping over or catching it and the dressing being pulled off

Do not tamper with the pump or turn it on and off; this to prevent damage to the wound and/or delayed healing

Respond to any alarms and check the dressing is suctioned down, if not contact your health care provider quickly; this to prevent damage to the wound/and or delayed healing