

Topical Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

Discharge Information

If you have been informed that you /your child/family member is to be discharged with Topical Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (TNPWT), a number of specialists will support you.

There are multiple devices/brands of Topical Negative Pressure Wound Therapy available within the hospital. You/your child/family member will be going home with:

- 3M Acti V.A.C®
 - 3M Prevena®
 - Smith & Nephew PICO®
 - Other:
-

Care of TNPWT

Showering/bathing:

Check with the medical/surgical team if bathing/showering is allowed with the TNPWT device on.

While the dressings covering the wound are watertight, they should not be completely submerged in water.

Before showering/bathing ensure that all the edges of the dressing are still intact. Reinforce the edges if lifting with some extra film dressing (supplied). If unable to be resecured, delay showering/bathing and seek assistance from community nurses/Women's & Children's Hospital (WCH) contact nurse.

Shower with your wound not in direct contact with the water flow. The pump unit should not be allowed in the water at all as these are battery-powered devices and they will stop working. Keep the pump out of the water and wrap it safely in a plastic bag to protect from water.

Pat dry area after shower and remove pump unit from plastic bag. If there are concerns that water has got into the dressing or the pump unit is alarming, follow device guide or troubleshooting guide available with the pump unit. If not able to resolve this yourself, escalate to community nurse/WCH contact nurse.

Daily pump/dressing care:

3M Acti V.A.C®- Needs to be charged regularly with power cord. It will take up to 6 hours to fully charge. Depending on the settings, the battery can last for up to 14 hours not connected to wall power. This will be different depending on settings. Always check the battery indicator on the screen. Attempt to keep the unit the right way up to avoid false alarming due to the canister being "full".

If the canister is full, it will need to be changed. Contact your community nurse/WCH contact nurse.

3M Prevena®- Pump will alarm if issues with dressing/battery failure. These are battery operated and not rechargeable. If dressing is all intact, attempt to change batteries and restart. If dressing has lifted or there is an air leak, reinforce with extra film dressing and turn back on. Sometimes the canister that collects fluid can become dislodged, attempt removing and reconnecting until you hear a 'click'. If ongoing issues, contact your community nurse/WCH contact nurse.

Smith & Nephew PICO®- This pump does not have an audible alarm. The lights on the pump should be green to indicate it is working. If they are orange, or no lights are on, there is an issue. If the light is flashing above the battery symbol, the batteries have drained, replace them. If the light is flashing above the dressing symbol, there is an air leak. You may need to reinforce the dressing with extra film dressing and turn back on. If ongoing issues, contact your community nurse/WCH contact nurse.



For assistance

Please contact the key nurse via the WCH switchboard on (08) 8161 7000 for any issues described over the page or if any of the following issues occur:

- If the dressing becomes loose or falls off
- If the dressing becomes very smelly
- If you/your child is extremely itchy or uncomfortable

In business hours (Monday-Friday 8am-4pm) please contact your WCH contact nurse:

Name: _____

Number: _____

Days of work: _____

If you/your child develops or shows signs of:

- Fever
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Rash
- Irritability/drowsiness
- Poor feeding/reduced appetite
- Disinterest in surroundings

They must be examined either at the Emergency Department at the WCH or by your local doctor.

Your next appointment:

On _____

At _____

In _____



For more information

Contact key nurse/home team
Women's and Children's Hospital
72 King William Rd, North Adelaide SA 5006
Telephone (08) 8161 7000
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This document has been reviewed and endorsed by WCHN consumers



Government of South Australia

Women's and Children's Health Network