

Note: Prior to use, the clinician(s) treating the wound must use their best medical judgement to assess how to use NPWT for an individual wound.

APPLYING THE WOUND CARE SET

1. If required, irrigate the wound bed thoroughly with approximately 20ml of normal saline. Insure surrounding wound edges are dry.
2. Place the drain in the wound bed to calculate length required; remove and trim as necessary to fit.
3. If a non-adherent wound contact layer is required cut a single layer to the approximate size and shape of the wound and lay across the wound bed.
4. Place a layer of saline-moistened (*not saturated*) gauze on the wound bed and place drain on top of gauze, within approx. 1/2" from wound edge to allow for wound contraction (alternatively, gauze can be wrapped around the drain if more suited to the wound). Note: The drain is never placed directly on the wound bed.
5. Fill wound bed with remaining saline-moistened (*not saturated*) gauze and fluff to skin level.
6. Place the transparent dressing over the filled wound, insuring contact with at least 1" of intact skin beyond the wound edges. Crimp or pinch the edges of the transparent dressing around the drain tubing to secure a proper seal. Lift the drain slightly and pinch the dressing underneath the drain to create a seal. At the tubing exit site you can apply a small amount of adhesive gel where the dressing meets the tube to seal and insure an airtight closure.
7. Connect drain tubing to canister connection tubing according to manufacturer's instructions.
8. Turn on power unit to initiate suction (refer to pump User's Manual). Once power unit is running, observe the wound site. The dressing should contract noticeably, become firm to the touch and 'raisin-like'. If the dressing fails to contract, the dressing has not been completely sealed. Reinforce the dressing seal and/or adjust the drain and initiate suction again.
9. Check for dressing integrity every 2-3 hours and at every shift change.
10. Depending on patient status and clinical judgement, the initial dressing change should take place after 48 hours and then 48-72 hours thereafter. For infected wounds the dressing may need to be changed every 24 hours.

