



Additional Education Requirements/Competencies Learning Plan

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Level One: Monitor & Manage

For Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) there are two levels of competency:

- **NPWT Level One: Monitor & Manage** is for all nurses responsible for the monitoring/management of patients/clients/residents who are receiving NPWT.
- **NPWT Level Two: Dressing Application** is for nurses responsible for the NPWT dressing application/reapplication (currently under development).

Indications for Use of this Document

- Use this document for the pre-requisites & lesson plan and its related document Competency Checklist for gaining the competency of NPWT Level One: Monitor & Manage.

British Columbia Nursing Practice Level – NPWT:

- Registered Nurses (RNs), Registered Psychiatric Nurses (RPNs), and Licenced Practical Nurses (LPNs), as part of their unit-specific Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) practice and in accordance with the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals scope of practice for their specific designation, and as per Health Authority/agency, must:
 - Have a policy supporting their designation in providing NPWT of which monitoring & managing the system is one component.
 - Have HA/agency approved NPWT decision support tools; (e.g., guideline and device specific procedure(s).
 - Have successfully completed the additional education requirements and competencies to monitor and manage the NPWT system.
 - Have a client specific NPWT order.
 - In addition, LPNs follow an established NPWT wound treatment plan.
- Each nurse is responsible and accountable to maintain their NPWT competency.

Pre-requisites for NPWT Monitor & Manage education:

- Completed Basic Wound Care education as defined by the health authority/agency.
- Removal of a NPWT dressing for a wound with undermining/sinus/tunnel requires competency in wound cleansing/wound packing of a visible and non-visible wound bed.

Lesson Plan:

The plan consists of learning activities to assist in knowledge acquisition and skill development in how to monitor & manage both reusable and disposable NPWT devices ([page 3](#))

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 - 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 or delegated nurse competent in the skill being demonstrated.

References:

1. British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals. (2019). *Nursing standards for RNs and NPs*. Retrieved from https://www.bccnp.ca/Standards/RN_NP/StandardResources/RN_ScopeofPractice.pdf on March 24th 2020.
2. British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP). (2018). *Scope of practice for licensed practical nurses*. https://www.bccnp.ca/Standards/LPN/StandardResources/LPN_ScopeOfPractice.pdf on March 24th 2020.

Document Creation/Review

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**NPWT Level One: Monitor & Manage
Additional Education Requirements/Competencies**

Learning Plan

Learning Activity	Resources	Date Done
Completed Basic Wound Care education for wound cleansing/packing of visible and non-visible wound bed as per HA/Agency.		
Gain an understanding of the general theory of NPWT, specific Health Care Professional responsibilities for supporting the therapy, as well as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to manage adverse events. • How to prepare trouble-shooting supplies. • What is required when transitioning to another site or different care setting. 	Read/review the NPWT provincial Decision Support Tool: Guideline: Negative Pressure Wound Therapy for Adults & Children.	
Determine which NPWT devices are used within your practice area.	Discussion with your Clinical Educator/Nurse Mentor.	
For those devices most commonly used on your unit/site learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the safety considerations. • How to manage the alerts/alarms. • How to change the canister (if applicable). 	Access the specific provincial NPWT device-specific Procedures and read these sections (see the procedure's Bookmark section): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure: NPWT Reusable - Ulta4/ActiVAC Dressing Application • Procedure: NPWT Disposable - VACVia Dressing Application • Procedure: NPWT Disposable - Prevena Peel & Place Dressing Application • Procedure: NPWT Disposable - Prevena Customizable Dressing Application • Procedure: NPWT Disposable - SNAP Dressing Application • Procedure: NPWT Disposable - PICO7 Dressing Application 	
Review any additional HA / Agency specific policies, procedures, guidelines or practice standards for NPWT.	Discuss with your Clinical Educator/Nurse Mentor.	
Complete the e-learning module: NPWT Monitor & Manage (approximately 30mins).	The Learning Module is found on the following Learning Management Systems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PHSA Learning Hub • IHA I-Learn • Yukon Learning System 	
Review the Client Health Education Resources for NPWT devices pertinent to your unit/site.	Check your HA's Patient Education website.	
Complete any competency validation or compliance requirements of the HA / Agency.		