



**COHESIVE HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT & CONSULTING**

**Mangum Regional Medical Center**

TITLE		POLICY
<b>Vacuum Assisted Closer (VAC)/Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT)</b>		<b>812</b>
MANUAL	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVIEW DATE
<b>Rehabilitation</b>		
DEPARTMENT	REFERENCE	
<b>Rehabilitation Services</b>		

**SCOPE:** All licensed physical therapy staff (PT/PTA) that provide wound care and will be applying NPWT for patient wound care at Mangum Regional Medical Center.

**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines for use of the vacuum assisted closure system.

**DEFENITION:** Negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT), also known as a vacuum assisted closure (VAC), is a therapeutic technique using a suction pump, tubing and a dressing to remove excess exudate and promote healing in acute or chronic wounds.

**POLICY:** Physician order received for vacuum assisted closure system or negative pressure wound therapy (VAC/NPWT)

- If not a current therapy wound care patient, additional MD order for wound evaluation is required.
- Consent for NPWT will be obtained from the patient/caregiver before application of the wound vacuum system.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Nursing unit clerk or R.N. to contact NPWT representative for system delivery and supplies.
2. Therapist to evaluate wound and determine appropriateness.
3. Therapist will initiate the VAC dressing application and connect to VAC canister.
4. Therapeutic suction setting will be determined for patient safety and optimum therapeutic effect.
  - a. Range 50 mmHG with unit default setting 125 mmHG
5. Dressing will be monitored daily by the therapist and therapist assistant.
  - a. Nursing will monitor PRN.
6. Upon loss of suction (air leak), if therapist is on site, therapist will repair or replace dressing as required per plan of care.

- a. If suction loss occurs during hours therapy department not available, nursing will try and repair by sealing any areas where seal may be broken.
  - b. If nursing is not able to achieve adequate seal, they will contact therapist and try to problem shoot by phone.
  - c. If problem is still not able to be fixed, nursing will turn off VAC. VAC dressing will remain intact unless there is too much drainage requiring a more absorptive dressing.
  - d. Therapist will repair or replace dressing as required per plan of care, the next business day.
7. If the NPWT system is not operating properly, VAC will be turned off and VAC representative notified so that a replacement unit can be obtained/delivered.

**REVISIONS/UPDATES**

Date	Brief Description of Revision/Change