VAC® (vacuum assisted closure) Therapy

VAC is a system that uses controlled negative pressure (vacuum) to help promote wound healing. The VAC helps remove exudates and fluids from the wound.

The VAC Therapy system consists of a computer-controlled therapy unit, canister, sterile plastic tubing, foam dressing and clear VAC Drape. A foam dressing will be placed on your wound. One end of the tube will connect to the foam while the other end of the tube will connect to the canister that connects to the VAC System. The wound area is sealed with the clear VAC Drape, similar to a large bandage. The VAC System will pull exudates and fluids from your wound through the tube and collect them inside the canister.

Home Safety Requirements:

- If your home does not have three-pronged outlets, use a three-prong adapter
- Do not use extension cords with this unit
- Keep electrical cords out of traffic areas
- Do not attempt to service or repair the equipment. If you have any problems with the equipment call 1-800-275-4524
- Be careful not to spill liquids on the VAC Therapy unit; it must remain dry
- Do not overload your electrical outlets

VAC Therapy System Safety Information

For your safety, the VAC Freedom® will alarm if any of the following occur:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System Will Alarm If…</th>
<th>Action…</th>
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<tr>
<td>Canister is full.</td>
<td>This alarm will sound if the canister is full or if the tubing is kinked or blocked. Replace canister if full.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A leak is detected in the dressing.</td>
<td>You may hear a whistling sound indicating air is entering into the drape. Often, the leak is around the tubing. Caregiver should repair drape leak using a new piece of the drape.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Battery is low.</td>
<td>Recharge battery by plugging the system into the wall outlet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Therapy not activated (system is on but therapy is not activated).</td>
<td>Press “power” to turn unit off, then press again to turn power and unit on.</td>
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Safety Information (continued)
If you see a rapid or sudden increase of blood under the drape, in the tubing or canister:

- Immediately turn off the VAC Therapy unit
- Clamp and disconnect the tubing between the dressing and the unit.
- Apply pressure and elevate.
- Call the Burn Center at (619) 543-6502 for further medical assistance or 911 in case of an emergency.

If the VAC Therapy system is off for more than two hours:

- Call the Burn Clinic to:
  - Place a non-VAC dressing, such as moist saline gauze or a dressing that has been previously prescribed by your physician; OR
  - Initiate steps to properly resume VAC Therapy.

Call the Burn Center Clinic at (619) 543-6505 if you experience any of the following changes:

- severe chills or fever
- excessive pain
- redness, swelling surrounding the VAC dressing

Daily Tips

- For best results remain on VAC Therapy 22 out of 24 hours. You should not be disconnected for more than 2 hours per day.
- The clear drape is waterproof; you may wash or shower with dressings in place and the tube clamped.
- If the therapy is off more than 15 minutes, the alarm will sound. If you need more time, press the alarm again. You can reset the alarm as many times as you need.
- When awake, check every 2 hours or more frequently: Is the system on? Does the display screen read “therapy on”? Are the clamps open? Is the unit plugged in? Is the canister full?

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS: (include premedication for dressing changes, if indicated)