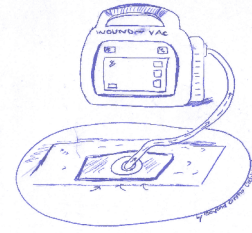


# Wound Vacs - Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT)



## **What is a wound vac?**

It's a device in conjunction with supplies that assists with the healing process of an open wound.

## **How does it work?**

The open wound is covered with a gauze or foam-type dressing material. This foam or gauze allows the fluid to be removed from the wound. This is then covered with an adhesive type film covering that “seals up” the wound site. This film is connected to tubing which is attached to a controller unit which regulates the air pressure & causes the vacuum suction to remove the fluid away. All of which stimulates tissues, promotes healing and/or closes the edges of the wound.

Dressings are changed on a regular basis (every 24 to 72 hours) based on provider’s order & patient’s wound healing process.

## **Wound Vacs - Disposable vs DME**

What classifies a “disposable” vs a “DME” wound vac? Cross-checking the individual manufacturer's website often will provide info if a particular vac has been designated as a one-time usage item or DME.

	<u>DME (NPWT)</u>	<u>Disposable (dNPWT)</u>
Comparables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Controller unit is medium to large size</li> <li>- Controller unit will be returned to a DME supplier when treatment is over.</li> <li>- Canister &amp; dressing are disposable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Controller unit is maybe “hand-held” size &amp; lighter in weight.</li> <li>- Controller unit is disposable.</li> <li>- Canister &amp; dressing are disposable</li> </ul>
Code Samples <sup>1</sup>		
Vac Application	97605-97606	97607-97608
Vac Supplies <sup>2,3</sup>	E2402, A7000, A6550	A9272, A9270

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The health care provider & patient should discuss which vac is best for the patient's situation. Insurance coverage may play a part of the patient's decision making since some carriers have payment policy and/or coverage limitations.

Documentation requirements:

Some insurances have individual requirements. For example, Noridian Health Solutions dedicates a full web page to NPWT- which includes a "*Documentation Checklist for NPWT*" that maybe helpful for documentation templates. Review insurance medical **and** payment policies for documentation requirements.

Wound vac documentation should always include at a minimum:

- Wound size
- Wound depth (ex: exposed down to fascia)
- Vac trade name and/or type (NPWT or dNPWT)
- Provider's order
- Diagnosis or reason for vac
- Supplies to be used
- Wound changes since **last visit:**                      OR                      **New Vac application:**
  - Increase, decrease in size                                      Support medical necessity for the wound vac
  - Decrease in fluid obtained
  - Improvements to the wound

<sup>1</sup>Codes are provided as a sample of codes related to wound vac. All code & modifier selection should be selected based on provider's documentation at the time of service (TOS).

<sup>2</sup>Supply codes will vary based on supplies used. Please select the correct code(s) based on documentation at TOS.

<sup>3</sup>Home Health (HHA) episode of care: If patient is under home nursing care at TOS, contact HHA to set up consolidated billing agreement. If no HHA- bill insurance as usual.

Resources:

<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/ProviderComplianceTipsforNegativePressureWoundTherapy-ICN909484.pdf>

<https://med.noridianmedicare.com/web/jddme/dmepos/negative-pressure-wound-therapy>

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