

**Excluded: Procedure not routinely funded**

**Thames Valley Priorities Committee Commissioning Policy Statement**

**Policy No. TVPC87**                      **Negative Pressure Wound Therapy for wound healing**

**Recommendation made by  
the Priorities Committee:**              January 2019

**Date of issue:**                              **June 2019**

The Thames Valley Priorities Committee has considered the guidance and evidence for the clinical and cost effectiveness of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) for wound healing. NPWT will be funded for patients who meet the following criteria:

- For treatment of diabetic foot ulcers/wounds that have been surgically debrided, (as per NICE NG19<sup>1</sup> which recommends that NPWT after surgical debridement for diabetic foot ulcers should be considered, on the advice of the multidisciplinary foot care service)
- For the management of open abdominal wounds (as per NICE IPG467<sup>2</sup>)

NPWT should be initiated in a secondary care setting and can be continued in community where there is the required expertise to care for the patient.

**Due to the lack of evidence of clinical and cost effectiveness NPWT for pressure ulcer and venous leg ulcers will not normally be funded.**

NPWT, also known as vacuum-assisted wound closure dressing and sub atmospheric pressure therapy is used as a treatment option for acute, chronic and surgical wounds. NPWT consists of a closed, sealed system that applies negative pressure (suction) to the wound surface. Experimental evidence suggests that NPWT may assist wound healing by increasing local blood flow and production of granulation tissue and reducing bacterial contamination, oedema and exudate.

<sup>1</sup> [NICE NG19 \(2015; updated 2016\) Diabetic foot problems: prevention and management](#)

<sup>2</sup> [NICE IPG467 \(2013\) Negative pressure wound therapy for the open abdomen](#)

**NOTES:**

- Potentially exceptional circumstances may be considered by a patient's CCG where there is evidence of significant health status impairment (e.g. inability to perform activities of daily living) and there is evidence that the intervention sought would improve the individual's health status.
- This policy will be reviewed in the light of new evidence or new national guidance, e.g., from NICE.
- Thames Valley clinical policies can be viewed at <http://www.fundingrequests.ccsu.nhs.uk/>

OPCS codes:

S57.7 Dressing of skin using vacuum assisted closure device NEC

Z92.6 Abdomen NEC

Diagnostic codes:

E10 Type 1 diabetes mellitus

E11 Type 2 diabetes mellitus

E13.621 other specified diabetes mellitus with foot ulcer