



## Frequently Asked Questions

### How does it work?

- The Prevena Plus 125's vacuum suction helps heal surgical incisions by holding the edges of the incision together. **It is very important that the suction be ON** for 24 hours a day.
- The suction pulls drainage from the incision into the canister. The drainage amount should be very small to no drainage.
- The dressing must stick firmly to the skin to stop air from going under the dressing, causing an leak and loss of suction.
- The purple dressing has a silver layer which touches the skin. This helps to decrease the risk of infection.
- The machine will 'beep/light up' to alert you when there is a problem (see page 3).
- Prevena Plus 125 runs on 3 rechargeable AA for up to a full 7 days and then shuts itself off.
- The machine can be disposed of through your neighbourhood electronic recycling program, if available.
- The machine comes with a carrying case.



### How long do I have this dressing on?

The Prevena Plus 125 dressing may stay on for up to 7 days. Your surgeon will decide when it will be removed or changed.

### What do I need to do while I have this dressing on?

- **While you are awake;** check every 2 hours that the:
  - Dressing is firm to touch.
  - The tubing is not kinked.
  - Canister is less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
  - ON/OFF button is showing **GREEN**
  - Battery has enough charge left in it. If not, plug the machine in.
- **Before going to sleep,** do one more check.



### Does it hurt?

- It is normal to feel a slight pulling or tugging due to the suction. If this hurts, take your pain medication as ordered by your surgeon. If your pain medication does not help, call your surgeon.
- You may feel some discomfort when the dressing is removed.

### Can I have a shower/tub bath?

- No. Showering/tub bathing should wait until the dressing is removed to avoid disturbing the dressing. It is okay to have a sponge bath.



### My Surgeon told me to remove the dressing once the therapy is done, how to I do this?

- Find one corner of the dressing and gently lift the edge. Then go around the whole dressing, lifting all of the edges. Remove the dressing.
- As your surgeon has ordered, cover the incision with the dressing supplied or leave the incision open to the air. Discard the dressing and canister in the garbage. Recycle the machine, if possible.

## Trouble-Shooting

**Prevena Plus 125** is ON and working correctly when there is at least one of the seven Therapy Life Indicator **green** lights showing.

- Once the therapy is on for one continuous hour, the 7-day lifespan of the machine begins. It continues this count down even if the therapy is off.
- Each **green** light shows how many therapy days are left.



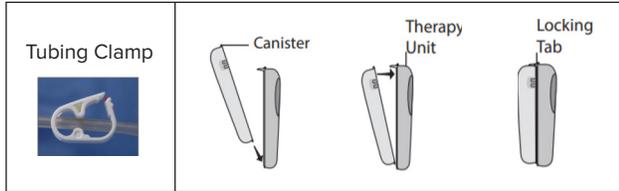
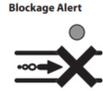
### Alarms

- The alarms sound two beeps that repeat every 15 seconds, except for the Low Battery Indicator, which beeps every 4 minutes. The alarm sounds until the problem is corrected.
- To mute the alarm for 2 minutes, press and hold the Alert Mute button for 3 seconds. Repeat if needed.

Alarms	What to Do
<p><b>Therapy near completion/ finished</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When there is 8 hours left of therapy, the last Therapy Life Indicator will show both <b>green</b> and <b>yellow</b> light.</li> <li>• When the therapy is finished, only the <b>yellow</b> light is showing. The device will sound 8 beeps, followed by a continuous beep for 5 seconds, then turn off.</li> </ul>	<p>Watch for the yellow light to come on. Contact your Community Health Unit to let them know that the therapy is almost completed; the nurse will arrange an appointment to remove the dressing.</p>
<p><b>Low battery indicator</b></p> <p>Solid <b>yellow</b> light with 2 beeps repeating every 4 minutes.</p>	<p>Alarm indicates approximately 2 hours of therapy remaining; plug machine in immediately.</p>
<p><b>Leak alarm</b></p> <p>Solid <b>yellow</b> light with 2 beeps repeating every 15 seconds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find your troubleshooting kit.</li> <li>• Check the edges of the dressing to find the site where the dressing has lifted causing the leak. Cover with small strips of transparent film drape to seal the leak.</li> <li>• Ensure tubing connection is tight.</li> <li>• Press/hold ON/OFF button 3 seconds to turn therapy on. If the air leak is resolved, the <b>green</b> light will stay on. If not, alarm will sound again; try again to seal the leak.</li> <li>• If unable to seal the leak, see back page “Nothing is Working”</li> </ul>

### Blockage / canister full alarm

Solid **yellow** light with 2 beeps repeating every 15 seconds.



- Ensure the white tubing clamp is open and tubing is not kinked.
- If alarm is still on, then change the canister:
  - Press/hold ON/OFF button 3 seconds to turn therapy off.
  - Slide tubing clamp down close to the canister. Close the clamp. Unplug tubing from canister tubing ports.
  - Remove machine from carrying case, if using.
  - Press Locking Tab on canister to remove canister.
  - Hold new canister in one hand and the machine in the other. Slide the bottom of canister into the slot on the bottom of the machine.
  - Close the canister into the machine (therapy unit); the Locking Tab will click when canister is secure.
  - Return machine to carrying case, if using.
  - Cleanse canister port site with the alcohol swab for 30+ seconds. Allow to dry for 30+ seconds.
  - Reattach dressing tubing to the canister ports.
  - Press/hold ON/OFF button 3 seconds to turn therapy on.

### System default alarm

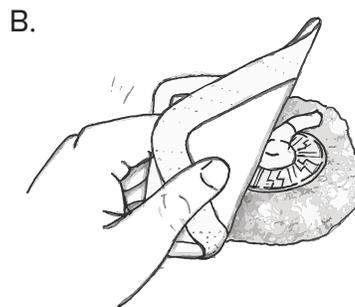
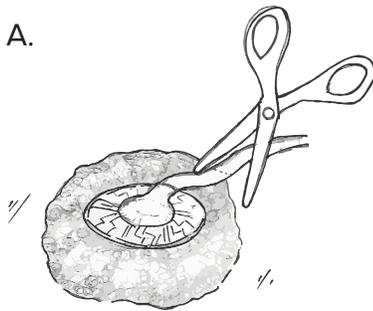
All lights turn on and flash. Two beeps will sound, repeating every 15 seconds.

- Try turning machine on, press/hold ON/OFF 3 seconds.
- Try replacing the 3 AA batteries.
- If unable to restart machine, see page 6 “Nothing is Working”.

**3M/KCI Customer Service 1-800-668-5403**

## Nothing is Working...

1. **Let your Surgeon or your Physician/NP know as soon as possible that there is a problem with the dressing and/or machine (if after office hours or on the weekend, leave a message).**
2. You will need to do the following to manage the dressing:
  - o Find your trouble-shooting supplies (scissors, dressing and tape).
  - o Ensure the machine is OFF; press/hold the ON/OFF button for 3 seconds.
  - o Wash your hands.
  - o Cut the tubing close to the purple dressing (see image A).
  - o Cover the cut tube with the dressing that has been supplied; tape in place as needed (see image B).
  - o This dressing will catch the drainage, change it as often as needed to keep it dry.
  - o Throw the canister in the garbage.
  - o Recycle the machine (electronic recycling) where possible.



## When to Seek Help

Call your Surgeon or Family Physician/Nurse Practitioner if you have any of the following:

- New or increasing pain.
- A fever of 38°C or higher.
- Feeling unwell (nausea/vomiting, lightheaded, dizzy or weak).
- Swelling, redness, warmth, tenderness, increasing itchiness at your dressing site.
- Bad/foul smell coming from the dressing or canister.
- Drainage in the tube or canister is thicker, has changed colour or there is an increase in drainage.

**Turn OFF** the machine and immediately call Emergency Services (911) if you see the following in the dressing, tube, or canister:

- Blood (red); unexpected or new bleeding.
- Bile (green) for abdominal wounds only.
- Stool (brownish) for abdominal wounds only.

For clients living with spinal cord injury and having signs/symptoms of Autonomic Dysreflexia **turn OFF the machine and call Emergency Services (911).**



Making better  
decisions together  
with patients  
and families

**Created by:** British Columbia Provincial Nursing Skin & Wound Committee

For more copies, go online at <http://vch.eduhealth.ca>  
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