

Client Health Education Resource

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

SNAP



The 3M KCI SNAP system is made up of a dressing and a **disposable** Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) device. It is being used to help heal your: Wound Skin Graft

Your NPWT care will be directed by (nurse to check ✓):

- Your Surgeon: please book a follow-up appointment. Date: _____
- Your Primary Care Provider: please book an appointment. Date: _____
- Your Community Nurse Specialized in Wound Ostomy Continence (NSWOC)/Wound Clinician.

You will receive a phone call from the Community Health Unit office to plan your clinic or home visits for your dressing changes. If you are discharged from hospital and you do not receive a phone call within 2 days, call your Community Health Unit (see page 6). Your next dressing change is due on: _____.

In the unlikely event that there is a problem with the dressing (see page 4), the Nurse will provide you with a small bag of trouble-shooting supplies. The Nurse will teach you how to use your supplies and discuss which Dressing Plan you should follow if the problem cannot be fixed (see page 5).

Community Health Unit Contact Information		
<i>To be completed by the Community Health Nurse</i>		
Name of Health Unit/Office:	Address:	Phone Number:
After Hours Contact Information:		

For urgent Nursing or Medical help, see page 6 for directions.

Please bring this information with you for all appointments or if you visit the Emergency Department.

Do not lose your BLACK Activation/Reset key. Keep the key with you at all times and take it to all of your wound care appointments.



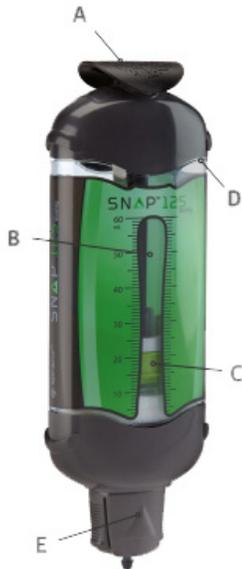
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Frequently Asked Questions

How does it work?

- The SNAP's suction helps with healing:
 - For wounds: it helps new tissue grow and gently pulls the wound edges together.
 - For skin grafts: it helps hold the graft in place.
- **It is very important that the suction is ON for 24 hours a day.** It is to be turned OFF only for dressing changes.
- SNAP is a mechanical (no batteries/ no power cord) machine which is turned ON/OFF with a **BLACK** Activation/Reset Key.
- The suction pulls the drainage through the dressing and into a cartridge within the machine. If you have a graft, the drainage amount should be minimal-to-none.
- SNAP does not have beeps or alarms. It uses **RED** and **GREEN** colours to show you when there is a problem with the dressing or the machine.
- The cartridge collects the drainage; it will need to be changed (see page 4) when Pressure Discharge Indicator shows **RED** (the chamber window is $\frac{3}{4}$ full).
- The dressing must stick firmly on the skin to stop air from going under the dressing causing an air leak and a loss of suction.
- The machine comes with a carrying clip/case.



- A - Activation/Reset Key (**BLACK**)
- B - Chamber Window
- C - Capacity Indicator (**GREEN**)
- D - Pressure Discharge Indicator shows **RED** when cartridge is full
- E - Tube Fitting

What do I do while I have this dressing on?

- **While you are awake;** check every 2 hours that the:
 - Dressing is firm to touch.
 - Tubing is not kinked.
 - Cartridge is not full; the Capacity Indicator shows GREEN and is stationary (not moving up/down)
- **Before going to sleep,** make sure the cartridge has enough space to collect drainage over-night.



Does it hurt?

- It is normal to feel a slight pulling or tugging due to the suction. If this hurts, take your pain medication if prescribed, or talk to your Nurse regarding pain medication.
- You may feel some discomfort when the dressing is removed.

What needs to be planned for my dressing changes?

With your Community Health Nurse, plan:

- The days and times for your dressing change.
- When to have a shower (if allowed. see below).
- When to turn the machine OFF; for wounds only; usually 30 minutes before the change. To turn OFF, insert the **BLACK** Activation / Reset key and let the suction slowly release; then remove the key.
- When to take pain medication, if needed (usually 30 to 45 minutes before the dressing change).

Write the plan here:

Can I have a shower/tub bath?

- If the dressing is covering a skin graft, do not shower or tub bath. Showering must wait until the dressing is no longer needed so that the graft is not disturbed.
- If the dressing is covering a wound, you may shower (no tub baths) with the dressing in place, but showering must be done immediately before a scheduled dressing change.
- SNAP does not have batteries so it can go into the shower with you.
- Your shower time should be kept short; the dressing and device is waterproof but try to keep the shower spray off the dressing as much as possible.
- After your shower, gently pat the dressing and device dry and wait for the Nurse to change your dressing.



Trouble-Shooting

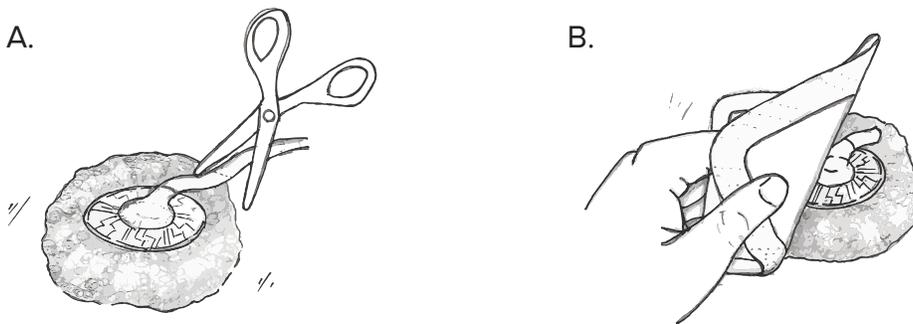
Alerts	What to Do
<p>Cartridge Full:</p> <p>The RED Pressure Discharge Indicator is visible</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>the GREEN Capacity Indicator is visible and is stationary.</p> 	<p>Change the cartridge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanse the tubing connector site with the alcohol swab for 30+ seconds. Allow to dry. • <u>Do not remove the tubing from the Tube Fitting and do not remove the cap on the Tube Fitting as this will damage the machine.</u> • Press the release tabs on the Tube Fitting and pull out of the cartridge. • Using both hands, attach the new cartridge to the Tube Fitting. • Activate the machine by pushing the Activation/ Reset Key into the cartridge and then pulling it out. • The machine may need to be primed (in/out) a few times to remove all the air and obtain a dressing seal. Prime the machine by pushing/pulling the BLACK Activation/Reset Key in/out the cartridge several times.
<p>Air Leak:</p> <p>The RED Pressure Discharge Indicator is visible</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>the GREEN Capacity Indicator is not visible and/or is not stationary.</p> 	<p>Fix the air leak:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find your trouble-shooting supplies. • Ensure tubing connection is tight. • Run your fingers along the edges of the dressing to find areas which seem loose or have lifted. Fix the leaks by covering them with small adhesive strips. • The machine may need to be primed a few times to remove all the air and obtain an air-tight dressing seal. Prime the machine by pushing/pulling the BLACK Activation/Reset Key in/out the cartridge several times. • If unable to fix the leak, see page 5 “Nothing is Working...”.
<p>Call the Community Health Unit office and follow trouble-shooting tips provided and/or</p> <p>Call 3M/KCI Customer Service 1-800-668-5403; there is always someone available to help.</p>	

Nothing is Working...

1. Let the Community Health Unit office know as soon as possible that there is a problem with the dressing and/or machine which you can not fix (if it is after office hours, leave a message).
2. You will need to do the following to manage the dressing:
 - Find your trouble-shooting supplies (scissors, dressing, tape).
 - Ensure the machine is **OFF** by inserting the Activation/Reset key.
 - Wash your hands.
 - Follow the checked (✓) Dressing Plan below

Dressing Plan: Cut & Cover - Wounds and Skin Grafts

- Cut the tubing close to the white grid dressing (see image A).
- Cover the cut tube with the dressing that has been supplied; tape in place as needed (see image B).
- This dressing will catch the drainage, change it as often as needed to keep it dry.
- Keep the machine for the Nurse.



Dressing Plan: Remove the Dressing - Wounds

- Make sure the machine has been **turned OFF/deactivated** for 30 minutes before removing the dressing.
- Gently remove the dressing. Some of the wound fillers (blue foam and/or gauze) may come out with the dressing at the same time – this is okay.
- Remove any loose wound fillers. If the wound has a deep packing, then, as discussed with the Nurse, remove the wound fillers that have been packed into these spaces; they do not come out with a gentle tug then leave them in place.
- Cover the entire wound with the dressing supplied; secure with tape if needed.
- This dressing will catch the drainage; change it as often as needed to keep it dry.
- Disconnect the dressing tube from the cartridge; place the old dressing, and all of the wound fillers that came out of the wound, into a plastic bag for the Nurse to see on the next visit.
- Keep the machine for the Nurse

When to Seek Help

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

- New or increasing pain.
- A temperature of 38°C or higher.
- Feeling unwell (nausea/vomiting, lightheaded, dizzy or weak).
- Swelling, warmth, tenderness, redness, itchiness at your dressing site.
- Bad/foul odour coming from the dressing or cartridge.
- Need to change the cartridge more often than usual.
- Drainage in the tube or cartridge is thicker than usual or has changed colour.

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)**.

Community Health Unit Contact Numbers

Health Authority	Area	Phone Number
Fraser Health	All areas	855-412-2121
Interior Health	Call the Community Health Unit closest to your home	
Northern Health	Call the Community Health Unit closest to your home	
Vancouver Coastal Health	North Shore/Coastal	604-986-7111
	Richmond	604-875-4510
	Vancouver	604-263 -7377
Vancouver Island	South Island	250-388-2273
	Central Island	250-739-5749
	North Island	250-331-8570

Created by: British Columbia Provincial Nursing Skin & Wound Committee



Making better
decisions together
with patients
and families

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