



NPWT Treatment & Insurance Guidelines

Introduction & Overview



NPWT Components & HCPCS

- **Wound Pump** (HCPCS: E2402)
- **NPWT Wound Kits** (HCPCS: A6550)
- **NPWT Canisters** (HCPCS: A7000)



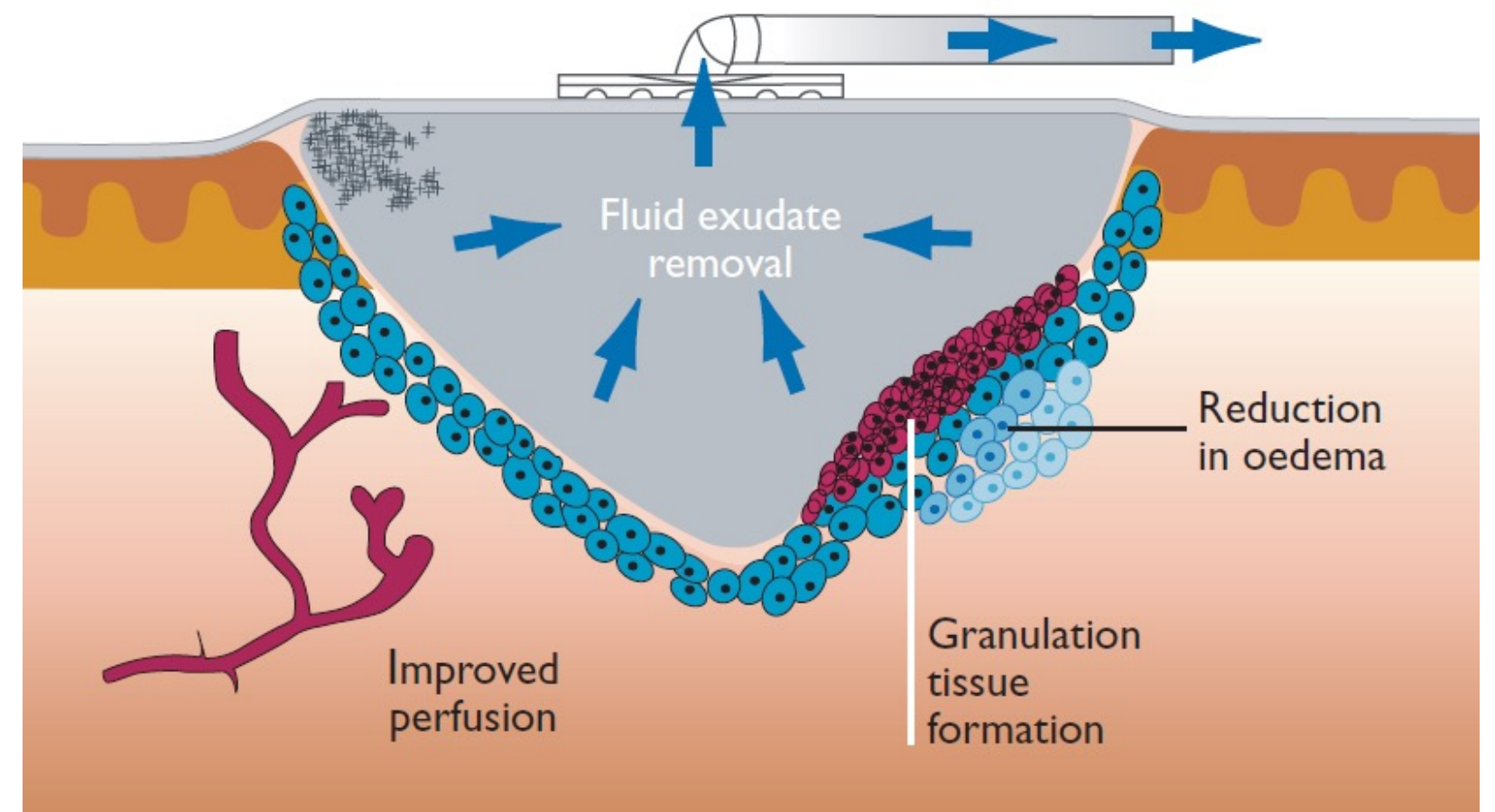
NPWT Defined

- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) encompasses the use of a closed vacuum system, drawing out fluid from the wound, while increasing blood flow to the affected area(s). Negative Pressure Wound Therapy provides powered suction to treat and promote wound healing by aiding in the removal of excess exudates, infectious material, and tissue debris.
- Use of Negative Pressure not only shortens the healing time, but often is the only therapy that heals wounds.



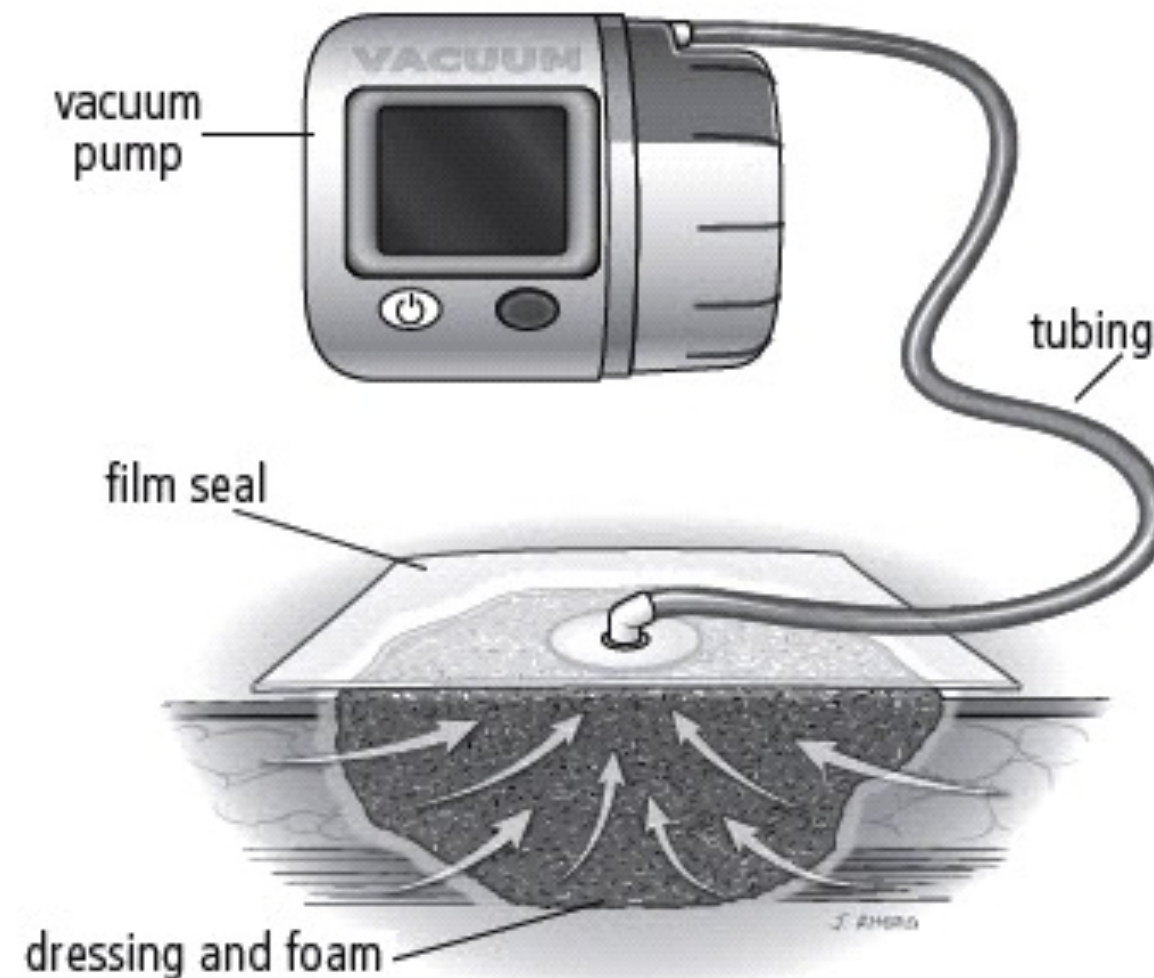
What is NPWT?

- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy
 - Removes Fluid
 - Removes Infection
 - Improves Perfusion (nutrients and O₂ to the wound)
 - Builds new tissue
 - Promotes Wound Healing



How it Works

- This therapy involves a special dressing (bandage), tubing, a negative pressure device, and canister to collect fluids



NPWT Providers

- NPWT Medical Equipment Suppliers **DO**:
 - Provide pump and supplies to patient
 - Service and support NPWT Medical
- Equipment Suppliers **DO NOT**:
 - Change dressings
 - Provide Clinical treatment



Homecare

- Covered by Medicare, Medicaid and Private Insurance
- Average billing cycle is 2 months
- Keys to Success
 - Product
 - Relationships
 - Customer service
 - Process



Homecare

- Referral Sources

- Wound center
- Hospital discharge
- LTAC
- LTC
- HHA
- Podiatry
- Surgery (general, vascular, bariatric, ortho)
- OBGYN



NPWT Homecare Process





Questions & Discussion

Insurance Guidelines



Insurance Documentation

- NPWT Order consists of:
 - Face Sheet
 - History & Physical
 - Wound Progress Note
 - Rx (DWO)



Qualifying Wounds

- Qualifying Wounds
 - Stage III or IV pressure ulcer
 - Neuropathic ulcer (ex. Diabetic)
 - Venous or arterial insufficiency ulcer
 - Chronic ulcer of mixed etiology that's present for at least 30 days



Documentation for the Type of Wound

- Qualifying pressure ulcer and complete wound therapy program, as applicable depending on the type of wound, must have been tried or considered and ruled out prior to application of NPWT:
 - Stage III or IV pressure ulcer
 - Neuropathic ulcer (ex. Diabetic)
 - Venous or arterial insufficiency ulcer
 - Chronic ulcer of mixed etiology (present for at least 30 days)



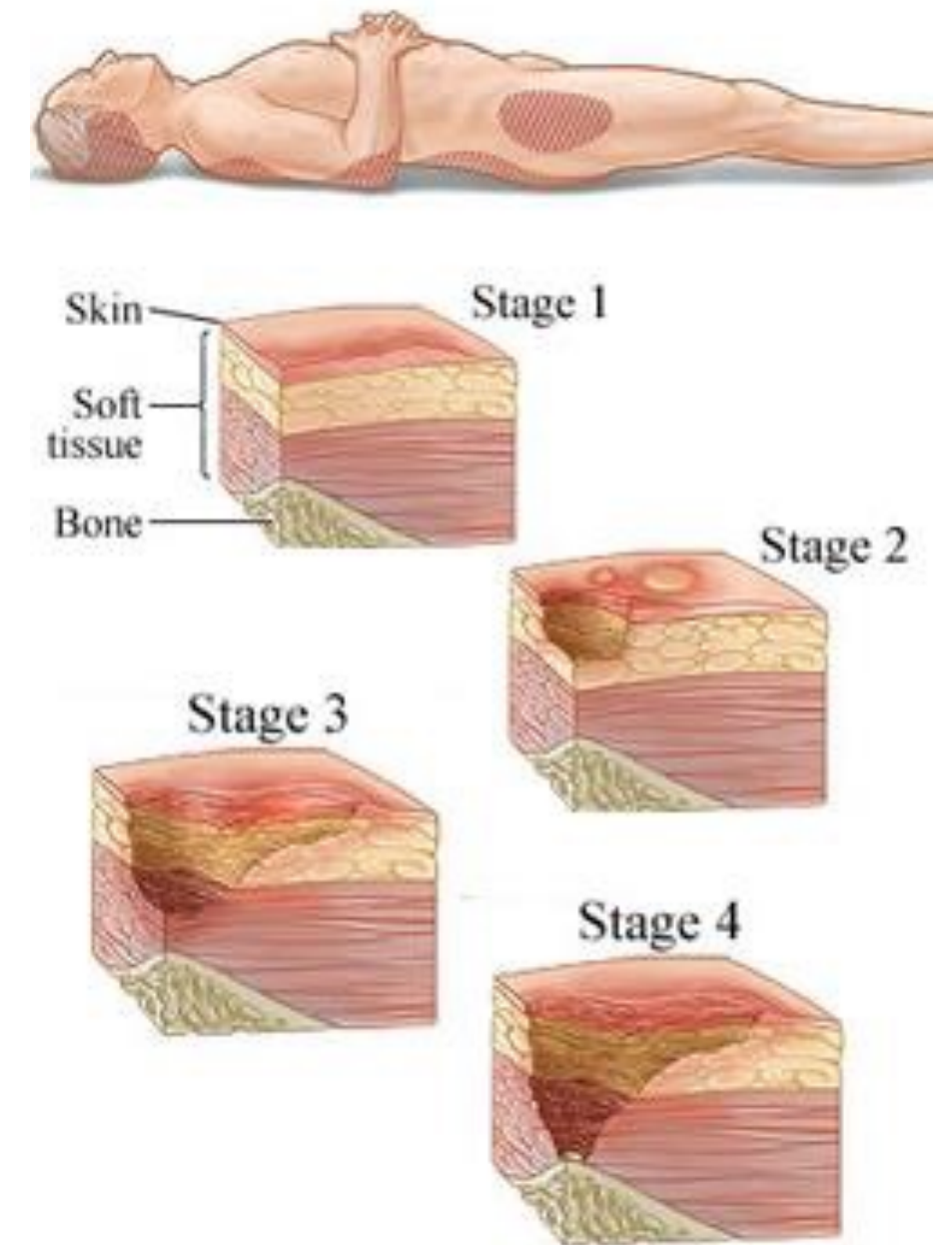
Documentation for All Wounds

- For all ulcers or wounds, the following components of a wound therapy program must include a minimum of all the following general measures, which should either be addressed, applied, or considered and ruled out prior to application of NPWT:
 - Documentation in medical record of evaluation, care, and wound measurements by a licensed medical professional, and
 - Application of dressings to maintain a moist wound environment, and
 - Debridement of necrotic tissue if present, and
 - Evaluation of and provision for adequate nutritional status



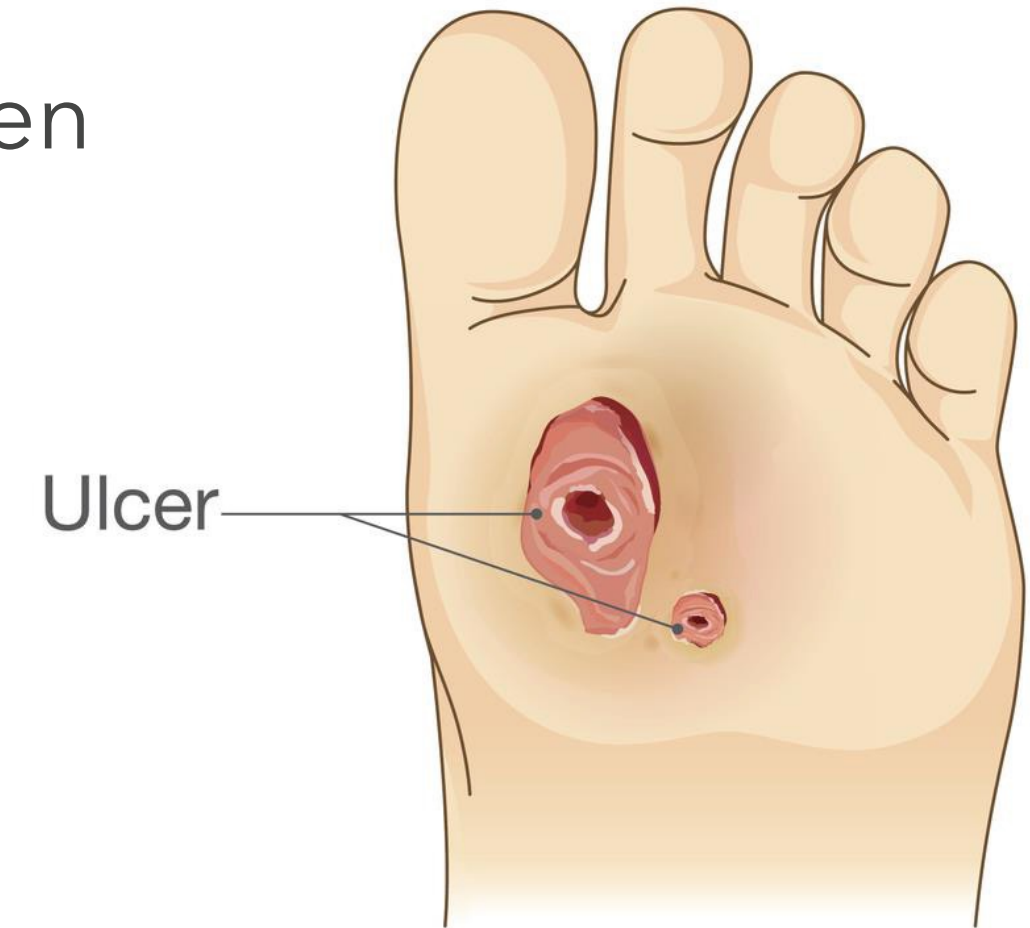
Stage III or IV Pressure Ulcers

- For Stage III or IV pressure ulcers:
 - The beneficiary has been appropriately turned and positioned, and
 - The beneficiary has used a group 2 or 3 support surface for pressure ulcers on the posterior trunk or pelvis, and
 - The beneficiary's moisture and incontinence have been appropriately managed



Neuropathic Ulcers

- For neuropathic ulcers (ex. Diabetic)
 - The beneficiary has been on a comprehensive diabetic management program, and
 - Reduction in pressure on a foot ulcer has been accomplished with appropriate modalities



Venous Insufficiency Ulcers

- For venous insufficiency ulcers:
 - Compression bandages and/or garments have been consistently applied, and
 - Leg elevation and ambulation have been encouraged



Encountered in Inpatient Setting

- Ulcers and wounds encountered in Inpatient Setting:
 - An ulcer or wound (described under A above) is encountered in the inpatient setting and, after wound treatments have been tried or considered and ruled out, NPWT is initiated because it is considered in the judgment of the treating practitioner, the best available treatment option, or
 - The beneficiary has complications of a surgically created wound (ex. Dehiscence) or a traumatic wound (ex. Pre operative flap or graft) where there is documentation of the medical necessity for accelerated formation of granulation tissue which cannot be achieved by other available topical wound treatments (ex. Other conditions of the beneficiary that will not allow for healing times achievable with other topical wound treatments).



Continued Coverage (Months 2-4)

- For wounds and ulcers, once placed on NPWT pump and supplies, for coverage to continue, licensed medical professional must do following:
 - On a regular basis,
 - Directly assess the wound(s) being treated with NPWT, and
 - Supervise or directly perform the NPWT dressing changes, and
 - On at least a monthly basis, document changes in the ulcer's dimensions and characteristics



Contraindications

- NPWT will be denied if one or more of following are present:
 - Necrotic tissue with eschar, if debridement is not attempted;
 - Osteomyelitis (infection in a bone) within vicinity of wound that is not concurrently being treated with intent to cure;
 - Cancer present in the wound;
 - Presence of open fistula to an organ or body cavity within vicinity of the wound



When Coverage Ends

- For wounds and ulcers, NPWT pump and supplies will be denied with any of the following, whichever occurs earliest:
 - Licensed medical professional does not see the patient
 - In judgement of treating practitioner, adequate wound healing has occurred to degree NPWT may be discontinued
 - Any measurable degree of wound healing has failed to occur over prior month. Wound healing is defined as improvement occurring in either surface area (length times width) or depth of the wound
 - 4 months
 - Once equipment or supplies are no longer being used for beneficiary



Insurance Quick Facts

- Only one NPWT Pump is covered, even if multiple wounds are present
- Diagnosis code of T81.89XA (initial encounter) will not be approved for NPWT
- If approving with a T code, a secondary code describing the wound is needed
- Wounds should be full thickness, or depth of 0.2cm or greater to be approved for NPWT





Questions & Discussion