

Caring for your negative pressure wound dressing at home

Your doctor has prescribed the use of a negative pressure dressing to help with your wound healing. Your wound care nurse will assist you with managing your negative pressure device. There are some actions you may need to take to help you manage your dressing when at home.

If you are having problems with your negative pressure dressing please contact the following:

During business hours, phone the Post-Acute Nursing Care team 4433 9933. A staff member will arrange a time for review and reapplication of your dressing.

After hours and if your negative pressure machine is malfunctioning, call the manufacturer KCI on 1300 524 822 for assistance.

If you are suddenly unwell, experience shortness of breath, chest pain or excessive bleeding, call 000.

What to do if your negative pressure machine isn't working

1. Turn the machine off.
2. One of the most common problems encountered is the machine may read "leak". It is possible for a small defect to occur in the adhesive layer of the dressing; you can hear the leak.

Quite often you can fix it by adding more adhesive (plastic) that will be supplied to you by your nurse.

3. Another common problem with this dressing is the machine will read 'canister full' when in fact it is not.

The small filter becomes moist and the machine reads that the canister is "full". You will be given a spare canister and instructed how to change it.

Please change the canister. In most cases this will fix the problem.

4. If you accidentally remove the plastic disc or the entire dressing you will need to call 4433 9933 to arrange an appointment.

If you need to remove your dressing, don't worry. Wash your hands with soap and water and remove the outer dressing including the foam and apply the dressing provided to you by your nurse.

5. If these steps do not fix the problem please contact the manufacturer, KCI, on 1300 524 822.

Your appointments with the Post-Acute Nursing Care team

Please remember to bring your negative pressure device and all accessories (such as the power cord and hard carrying case) to all appointments.

Please attend all appointments with your medical team at the hospital. Our nurses will advise you of the ongoing plan for your wound care.

