

## EVALUATING NEGATIVE PRESSURE WOUND THERAPY (NPWT) – A PROCESS FOR PROCUREMENT

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**Aim:** NPWT is an accepted form of treatment in wound care, but historically because of the cost, its use has been restricted to the most complex wounds. With lower price alternative systems becoming available, there is an opportunity to be able to offer this therapy to more patients. However it is important that this treatment produces acceptable clinical outcomes in a range of wound types.

**Method:** A 50 patient non-comparative product evaluation was undertaken to review the clinical outcomes of one of the newer NPWT systems. A number of evaluations sites were used in the UK over a six month period. A protocol was submitted to NRES, but as a product evaluation the process was deemed as not requiring ethical approval. The NPWT device was used on a range of wound types. Specific parameters were measured including reduction in devitalised tissue, progression to healing, exudate management, and pain during the application and removal, and also during the treatment.

**Results:** The clinical outcomes were reported by wound type, demonstrating the wound progression and outcomes by aetiology. The cost per patient was also available. The results of the evaluation demonstrated that this system was effective in producing positive clinical outcomes for patients requiring NPWT.

**Conclusion:** The clinicians involved in the process have been able to use this structured product evaluation for procurement purposes, to enable them to make an informed decision on patient care.