



## V.A.C.<sup>®</sup> Therapy Patient Information Booklet

Brought to you by KCI, an Acelity company

# Your Personal V.A.C.® Therapy Guide

Your treating medical professional has determined you require V.A.C.® Therapy to help promote the healing of your wound. This booklet will provide you with helpful information on how V.A.C.® Therapy works, the operation of your V.A.C.® Therapy unit, understanding your dressings and tips on how to ensure you achieve the best possible outcomes with V.A.C.® Therapy. Please keep this booklet where you can easily find it.

As with any medical device, it is important you discuss this information or any questions you might have about your therapy with your treating medical professional.

If, however you have any product-related questions about V.A.C.® Therapy after reading this booklet, please call KCI Medical Ireland on 24-hour Freephone number **1800 33 33 77** or KCI Medical UK on 24-hour Freephone number **0800 980 8880**. If you have immediate medical concerns, please call your treating medical professional.

*This V.A.C.® Therapy Patient Information Booklet is provided by KCI as a summary for certain information related to your use of the V.A.C.® Therapy System. This booklet has been delivered to you by your treating medical professional. It is not intended to be a comprehensive guide to product use, operation and placement. Please consult your treating medical professional regarding specific questions and important information related to V.A.C.® Therapy System indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions and operation.*

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# Company Information

## Who is KCI?

KCI Medical is one of Europe's leading medical technology companies, first established in Europe over 20 years ago. At KCI we are dedicated to helping medical professionals optimise the outcome for their patients, improving the quality of care for both patients and treating medical professionals.

KCI therapies, products and support are making a difference across all care settings in many countries around the world. We design, manufacture, market and service a wide spectrum of innovative products that aim to improve clinical outcomes while helping to reduce the overall costs of care - all backed by a worldwide network of service and clinical support.

KCI play an active role in the wound healing process whether this is within a hospital setting or within the patients' home.

We are dedicated to constant innovation in order to improve the quality of our products, so that our patients can receive the most effective treatments.

## Support for Patients 24 hours per Day, 365 Days per Year

KCI is committed to ensuring patients have access to a member of our Customer Care Team and our Clinical Support Specialists 24-hours per day, 7-days a week, 365-days per year, for any technical and product related queries.

For all product-related and technical support please do not hesitate to contact KCI Ireland Freephone on **1800 33 33 77** or KCI UK Freephone on **0800 980 8880** at any time.

If it is after normal business hours, please leave your name and telephone number where you can be reached with the person taking the message. Your call will be returned by a Technical or Clinical Support team member on-call, as quickly as possible.

**For any medical questions, please contact your treating medical professional directly.**

# What is V.A.C.® Therapy?

V.A.C.® is short for Vacuum Assisted Closure®.

V.A.C.® Therapy uses a vacuum (or negative pressure) and specialised dressings, to help facilitate wound healing. V.A.C.® Therapy is delivered by an integrated therapy system made up of 4 main components:

1. A Therapy unit with a canister to hold fluid (Fig 1)
2. A SensaT.R.A.C.™ pad with tubing to connect the unit and the foam (Fig 2)
3. Foam Dressings (Fig 3)
4. V.A.C.® Drape (Fig 4)

## Therapy Unit & Canister



(Fig 1)

The therapy unit is the 'brain' of the integrated V.A.C.® Therapy system. It manages, measures and records the negative pressure and alarms if there is a problem.

## SensaT.R.A.C.™ Pad



(Fig 2)

Excess fluid and potentially infectious materials are removed from the wound through the SensaT.R.A.C.™ Pad and into the canister.

## Foam Dressings



(Fig 3)

The V.A.C.® foam dressings are an essential part of the therapy system. They work at a physical and biological level in combination with the negative pressure, to promote wound healing. Your treating medical professional will choose between V.A.C.® GranuFoam™, V.A.C.® WhiteFoam or V.A.C. GranuFoam Silver™ Dressings as appropriate.

## V.A.C.® Drape



(Fig 4)

The V.A.C.® Drape is an adhesive layer spread across the foam dressing, ensuring a closed, moist wound healing environment.

# How does V.A.C.® Therapy work?

The V.A.C.® Therapy foam dressing is placed in or onto the wound. The foam will be one, or a combination of, the foams described on page 4. The choice of foam will be made by your treating medical professional and will depend on the type, size or location of your wound, and the wound healing objectives required.

The foam and a few centimetres of the surrounding skin will be covered with a clear drape. A hole will be cut in the centre of the drape and your SensaT.R.A.C.™ Pad will be placed on top of it. The other end of the tubing will be connected to the canister, which is attached to the therapy unit.

When the integrated V.A.C.® Therapy System is in place and the unit is turned on, the foam dressing collapses. At this time you might feel a slight pulling sensation. The V.A.C.® Therapy System pulls potentially infectious materials and other fluids from your wound, through the tube, and collects them inside the canister.



Delivering negative pressure to your wound through the SensaT.R.A.C.™ Pad and V.A.C.® Therapy dressings helps draw wound edges together, remove potentially infectious materials and other fluids from your wound.

Depending on where you receive V.A.C.® Therapy, this unit will be either a V.A.C.® ATS, InfoV.A.C.® or V.A.C. Ultra™ Therapy Unit (only in the hospital), the V.A.C.® Freedom Therapy Unit (in the hospital or at home), the V.A.C. Via™ or the ActiV.A.C.® Therapy Unit (in the hospital or at home).

The V.A.C.® Therapy Clinical Guidelines recommend that V.A.C.® Therapy stays on 24 hours a day so it can continuously deliver its benefits to your wound healing process. However, please follow direct advice from your treating medical professional.

## **You should check frequently:**

- Is the System on?
- Does it say 'Therapy on'?
- Are all the clamps open?
- Has the dressing collapsed down?

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q How long will I be receiving V.A.C.® Therapy?

A That depends on the type and severity of your wound and your body's ability to heal wounds. Your treating medical professional is responsible for all clinical decision making regarding your V.A.C.® Therapy.

## Q How does V.A.C.® Therapy feel?

A Many patients report a mild pulling sensation that tends not to be noticeable after about 15 minutes. As the wound heals it may become tender or itchy, this is normally a good sign, but if discomfort persists, please contact your treating medical professional.

## Q How many hours a day must I keep the system on?

A It is usually recommended you remain on V.A.C.® Therapy 24-hours a day; however, your treating medical professional will advise on the treatment plan for your wound. If the system must be off for more than two hours at a time, you must consult your treating medical professional.

## Q How often does the dressing need to be changed?

A The V.A.C.® Dressing should be changed once every 48–72 hours, but no less than three times a week. For infected wounds, dressings may need to be changed more often. Your treating medical professional (doctor or nurse) will work with you to establish the best dressing change schedule for you.

## Q Will the dressing change hurt?

A Some wound types may cause patient to experience some discomfort, and your treating medical professional can advise you on pain relief.



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q How will the dressing look when the system is operating?**

A The dressing may shrink down or wrinkle slightly as the system operates.

**Q Is V.A.C.® Therapy safe?**

A Yes. V.A.C.® Therapy has been used on more than 9 million wounds around the world. The V.A.C.® Therapy System has been designed with safety as a priority. The interaction of all V.A.C.® Therapy components ensures controlled, consistent and safe therapy.

**Q Can I move around?**

A One clear goal of V.A.C.® Therapy is to keep you as mobile as possible. Yet this depends on the location of the wound and the treatment your treating medical professional has prescribed. Ask your treating medical professional about your personal situation.

**Q What happens if the system alarms?**

A The visual alarm describes the nature of the problem and most alarms are easily solved. This is something your treating medical professional can explain, and there is more information about alarms in this booklet.



# V.A.C.® Therapy at Home

V.A.C.® Therapy Systems are available for use in both the hospital and the home setting. Your treating medical professional will determine if it is appropriate for you to be discharged from the hospital on a V.A.C.® Therapy System.

## Active with V.A.C.®

The ActiV.A.C.®, V.A.C.Via™ and the V.A.C.® Freedom Therapy Units allow you to be mobile, carrying out your daily activities in accordance with medical advice, while continuing your wound therapy.

## Patient transfer from home to hospital

Please call your treating medical professional or KCI Customer Service if you are admitted to a hospital whilst on V.A.C.® Therapy.

If you are discontinuing your therapy at home, prior to transferring into a hospital or inpatient facility, please call KCI Ireland on Freephone **1800 33 33 77** or KCI UK on Freephone **0800 980 8880** to arrange for the pick-up of your V.A.C.® Therapy system used at home.

You should contact your treating medical professional to arrange a visit to ensure the unit has been properly removed and all precautions have been taken to ensure a safe transfer to the hospital.

# Alarm Information

## What happens if the V.A.C.® Therapy unit alarms?

The integrated V.A.C.® Therapy System has both audible and visual alarms that describe the nature of the problem. Most alarms are easily solved. This is something your treating medical professional can explain in more detail before use, so you are comfortable with this safety system.

For your safety the system will alarm if any of the following occurs:

System will alarm if...	Action
Canister is full.	This alarm will sound if the canister is full or if the tubing is kinked or blocked. In this situation, the full canister will be removed and replaced with a new canister. This would usually be undertaken by the treating medical professional.
There is a leak.	You may hear a whistling sound indicating air is entering into the drape. Often, the leak is around the tubing. In this scenario, leaks in the drape would be repaired using a new piece of drape. This would usually be undertaken by the treating medical professional.
Battery is low/dead.	Recharge dead battery by plugging the system into the wall outlet.
Therapy is not activated.	Therapy can be re-activated by pressing "Power" to turn unit off, then press again to turn unit on.

# Daily Tips

- It is recommended that you remain on V.A.C.<sup>®</sup> Therapy 24-hours a day, unless otherwise directed by your treating medical professional.
- V.A.C.<sup>®</sup> Therapy Clinical Guidelines recommend that you should not be disconnected for more than 2 hours a day.
- The clear drape is waterproof, and you may wash or shower with dressings in place if:
  - You are disconnected from the therapy unit.
  - The tubing is clamped.
  - You take care not to soak the dressing.
- The therapy unit is an electrical system and should not become wet.
- If dressings become soiled, gently clean with mild soap and water.
- If the THERAPY ON/OFF button is accidentally turned off, push the same button to turn the unit back on. The system will return to all the right settings and therapy will continue.

**Contact KCI Customer Care on KCI Ireland on Freephone 1800 33 33 77 or KCI UK on Freephone 0800 980 8880 if the alarm will not turn off and you have been unable to solve the problem.**

## Treating medical professional information:

Name

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Contact Number

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# Delivery and Collection

## Delivery of equipment and supplies

In co-operation with KCI, your treating medical professional will arrange for the delivery of the V.A.C.<sup>®</sup> Therapy equipment required for you, following discharge. A User Manual is provided inside the case. Your equipment and supplies will be delivered to your home. You will be required to sign a delivery form. Before signing the delivery form, it is very important that you make sure the equipment or supplies listed on the delivery receipt matches what was delivered to your home. If the delivery is incorrect or in poor condition, please alert KCI immediately on KCI Ireland on Freephone **1800 33 33 77** or KCI UK on Freephone **0800 980 8880** so the situation can be corrected.

## Handling delivery problems

- Damaged Equipment/Supplies – Notify KCI of any damaged equipment or supplies, and arrangements will be made for a service call.
- Late Delivery – If your delivery does not arrive on time, call KCI Customer Care on Freephone KCI Ireland on Freephone **1800 33 33 77** or KCI UK on Freephone **0800 980 8880**. The delivery source will be contacted during local working hours, to find out when your equipment or supplies will be delivered.

## Return of equipment and supplies

Please call KCI Customer Care to arrange for the return of your V.A.C.<sup>®</sup> Unit. KCI Customer Care will issue you with a unique discontinuation number, and will arrange for the V.A.C.<sup>®</sup> Unit to be collected. The V.A.C.<sup>®</sup> Unit has been delivered to you in a carry case. Please do not discard the case. The case is needed to return the V.A.C.<sup>®</sup> Therapy Unit safely to KCI when therapy is discontinued.

## Your responsibilities

- Notifying KCI of any changes in the agreed delivery schedule.
- Notifying KCI and/or your treating medical professional if the equipment is no longer in use or if you have been admitted to a hospital or nursing home.

# V.A.C.® Therapy Patient Safety Information

## Notify your treating medical professional immediately if:

- You notice a significant change in the colour or consistency of the fluid in your canister. For example, if you see clear drainage turn cloudy or bright red.
- You see excessive bleeding under the drape, in the tubing, or in the canister.
- You observe increased redness or odour from the wound.
- You experience increased pain.
- The V.A.C.® Therapy System is left off for more than two hours.
- You change your medication.

## Important

- Read and follow all instructions and safety information.
- Do not change the settings on the V.A.C.® Therapy unit or change/remove your dressing without your treating medical professional being present.
- Do not attempt to service or repair this equipment. If you have any concerns with the V.A.C.® Therapy system, please call KCI Customer Care on KCI Ireland on Freephone **1800 33 33 77** or KCI UK on Freephone **0800 980 8880**.

## Home safety

- Keep all emergency telephone numbers by your phone.
- Do not use extension cords with this product.
- Do not place the V.A.C.® Therapy Unit on a hot surface.
- Make sure cords are not in places where people can easily trip over them.
- Be careful not to spill liquids on the unit as it is an electrical device and is not waterproof.
- Designate a single plug socket for the V.A.C.® Therapy Unit.

# V.A.C.® Therapy Patient Safety Information

## Infection control

Your treating medical professional will decide the appropriate V.A.C.® Therapy treatment for you, should your wound be infected. Please follow the instructions as given by your treating medical professional concerning infection control.

If you think your wound is infected, or if you have any of the following symptoms, call your treating medical professional right away:

- You have a fever
- Your wound is sore, red or swollen
- Your skin itches or you have a rash
- The area in or around the wound feels very warm
- You have pus or a bad smell is coming from the wound

## Allergic reactions

V.A.C.® Therapy dressings, drape and canisters are germ and latex-free. Use these only once and throw them away.

In a very small number of cases, some patients experience an allergic reaction to the drape on their skin. If you have any of the following signs contact your treating medical professional for advice and/or a wound review:

- Redness
- Swelling
- Rash or hives
- Severe itching

If you have difficulty breathing, seek immediate medical advice.

# Family Member Information

## As a family member, how can you help?

As a family member or friend of someone receiving V.A.C.® Therapy, you can support this therapy by reminding the patient of the importance of using V.A.C.® Therapy as prescribed by the treating medical professional.

**Remember your support and encouragement can make the difference in a speedy recovery.**



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND  
KCI Medical Ltd.  
2050 Orchard Avenue  
Citywest Business Campus  
County Dublin  
Ireland

24 hour Customer Care  
Freephone 1800 33 33 77  
Tel +353 (0)1 421 3900  
Fax +353 (0)1 421 3901  
[www.kci-medical.ie](http://www.kci-medical.ie)

UNITED KINGDOM  
KCI Medical Ltd.  
11 Nimrod Way  
East Dorset Trade Park  
Ferndown Industrial estate  
Wimborne  
Dorset, BH21 7SH

24-hour Customer Care  
Freephone 0800 980 8880  
[www.kci-medical.co.uk](http://www.kci-medical.co.uk)

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