

## Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT)

### Coverage and Payment Policy

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) is the application of sub-atmospheric pressure to a wound in order to remove exudate and debris from wounds. NPWT is delivered through a system which includes a suction pump, exudate collection chamber and dressing sets

This service requires prior authorization.

The prescribing provider must submit the following information:

#### A. Ulcers and Wounds in the Home Setting:

The beneficiary has a chronic Stage III or IV pressure ulcer, neuropathic (for example, diabetic) ulcer, venous, or arterial insufficiency ulcer. A complete wound therapy program described by criterion 1 and criteria 2, 3, or 4, must have been tried or considered and ruled out prior to application of NPWT.

1. For all ulcers or wounds, the following components of a wound therapy program must include all of the following measures which should be addressed, applied, or considered and ruled out prior to application of NPWT.
  - a. Documentation in the beneficiary's medical record of evaluation, care, and wound measurements by a licensed medical professional, and
  - b. Application of dressing to maintain a moist wound environment, and
  - c. Debridement of necrotic tissue if present, and
  - d. Evaluation of and provision for adequate nutritional status.
2. For Stage III or IV pressure ulcers:
  - a. The beneficiary has been appropriately turned and positioned, and
  - b. The beneficiary has used a group 2 or 3 support surface for ulcers on the back or pelvis, and
  - c. Moisture and incontinence have been appropriately managed.
3. For neuropathic (for example, diabetic) ulcers:
  - a. The beneficiary has been on a comprehensive diabetic management program, and

