Wound V.A.C. Dressing Change

- Gather materials:
  - Info V.A.C. Pump
  - VAC canister
  - VAC Dressing Kit
  - Scissors
  - Skin protectant
  - 4x4 gauze
  - Saline for irrigation
  - Syringe for irrigation
  - cotton-tip applicator or tweezers
  - Non-sterile gloves
Wound V.A.C. Dressing Change

- Wash hands
- Apply non-sterile gloves

- To prevent reflux from tubing, close clamp
- Turn off V.A.C. pump

- Remove old dressing. If adhered to wound base, moisten old foam with normal saline. Alternatively, saline can be instilling through tubing connection and left to stand 5-10 minutes.
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- Cleanse wound bed with normal saline or wound cleanser to remove debris. Remove from wound bed any bits of old foam dressing using cotton-tip applicator or tweezers.

- Examine wound bed. It should have pink/red granulation tissue. Note any drainage, tunneling, cavities.
- Assess wound size. A measuring tape is included in the VAC Dressing Kit.

- Check condition of periwound skin.
- Make sure wound edges are clean and dry.
- Prep wound margins around wound with skin protectant.
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• Window paning wound edges with transparent drape is not required, but has the advantage of protecting the periwound surface if foam material extends beyond the wound edges. It can also help create a better seal around the wound.

• Cut and shape the foam to fit the size and shape of the wound. To avoid bits of foam falling into wound, do not cut foam over wound.
• This is a clean procedure, rather than an aseptic one.

• Place shaped foam into wound.
• Fill wound with enough foam so that when vacuum is applied, the height of the foam is close to the top of the wound margins.
• Note number of foam pieces placed in wound. This is critical if foam is inserted into cavities.
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- Cut and apply transparent drape material to cover the foam and wound. The drape material should extend out onto the periwound about a half inch all around.
- When working with the KCI drape, follow the numbers for ease of application. Start with removing layer #1.

- Cut 2 cm (quarter) sized hole in drape above foam.

- Apply over the hole in the drape the SensaTRAC pad with tubing arranged in a direction and position that is comfortable for the patient and avoids excessive pressure against skin.
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• Connect tubing from dressing to tubing coming from VAC suction canister. The connectors lock together.

• Activate VAC suction unit and check for airleak.
• Set therapy to physician’s prescription.

• When suction is applied, the foam will contract to a raisin-like appearance.
• Label dressing with date, time, initial, and number of foam pieces placed in wound.
• Document dressing change in EMR.