Bringing Wound Care Home
Negative pressure wound therapy for Vhi Patients
Your Wound Healing System

For over twenty five years, KCI has been a leader in the development of therapeutic medical devices that help promote wound healing. The V.A.C.® Therapy system is recognised by clinicians worldwide as a leader in the wound care market.

What is V.A.C.® Therapy?
V.A.C.® is short for Vacuum Assisted Closure.

V.A.C.® Therapy uses a controlled vacuum or negative pressure, in combination with a reticulated open pore foam to help speed up wound healing.

How does V.A.C.® Therapy work?
The Integrated V.A.C.® Therapy system includes:

- **Therapy unit**
  The therapy unit is the ‘brain’ of the Integrated V.A.C.® Therapy system. It manages, measures and records the negative pressure, and alarms you if there is a problem. The V.A.C. Freedom® unit is lightweight, and comes with a flexible carry case and shoulder strap.

- **Canister & T.R.A.C.® Pad**
  Excess fluid and infectious materials are removed from the wound through the T.R.A.C.® Pad and into the canister.

- **Foam dressings**
  The specialised V.A.C.® foam dressings are an essential part of the V.A.C.® Therapy system. They work at a physical and biological level in combination with the negative pressure, to promote fast wound healing.1

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

KCI provides 24-hour customer care and support on its Freephone 1800 33 33 77
Your V.A.C.® Therapy
Your clinician has determined that it is suitable for you to continue your wound therapy at home and you can be discharged from hospital on a V.A.C. Freedom® Unit.

V.A.C.® Therapy & Vhi Healthcare
V.A.C.® Therapy is a recognised device on the Vhi Healthcare ‘Approved List of Medical and Surgical Appliances.’

As a Vhi Healthcare policy holder you can cover the costs for continuing your V.A.C.® Therapy at home, and submit a claim to be reimbursed from Vhi Healthcare, up to a maximum value of €86.10 per day of therapy.

Your V.A.C.® Therapy must be approved by your consultant and supported by a consultant letter.

Consult your Healthcare provider
It is recommended that you contact Vhi Healthcare prior to being discharged with V.A.C.® Therapy, so that they may advise you directly on the conditions relating to reimbursement.

You can contact Vhi Healthcare on 1850 44 44 44

Commencing V.A.C.® Therapy
Following consultation with Vhi Healthcare on the specifics of your policy as it relates to V.A.C.® Therapy, you are now ready to begin making the necessary arrangements to go home with V.A.C.® Therapy.

The first step is to arrange for a V.A.C.® Therapy quotation from KCI and subsequent delivery of your wound therapy system to the hospital, or an alternative specific address, in anticipation of your discharge. Alternatively, you may be discharged on a hospital unit.

Your clinician or hospital nurse will assist you to contact KCI and place your order to ensure it can be delivered in time for your discharge. You will need to have your Credit / Laser card details available for payment.

For all queries relating to the costs and ordering of V.A.C.® Therapy please contact KCI directly on Freephone 1800 33 33 77
The Benefits of Healing at Home

A proven therapy
More than 2.8 million patients have been successfully treated worldwide with V.A.C.® Therapy. Our therapy is proven to work not only in the clinical environment, but also in the home setting.¹⁻⁵

Freedom with V.A.C.®
Your V.A.C. Freedom® Unit will allow you to be mobile, carrying out your daily activities in accordance with medical advice, while continuing your wound therapy.

Managing your V.A.C.® Therapy at home
Your V.A.C.® dressings will need to be changed every 48 to 72 hours, but no less than three times a week, as prescribed by your clinician. Your canister should be checked, and replaced, if full.

Your dressing changes
There are three options commonly used for managing dressing changes:

1. A community nurse will conduct your dressing changes and wound reviews in your home.

2. Your general practitioner, or their practice nurse, can complete your dressing change and wound reviews in their clinic.

3. You can return to your hospital’s Outpatient Clinic for dressing changes and wound reviews.

Before discharging you from hospital, your clinician will make appropriate arrangements for your dressing change and wound reviews, as part of a standard discharge plan.

Ordering new dressings from home
New dressing kits and canisters can be ordered directly from KCI as required by phoning 1800 33 33 77.
Simple Steps for V.A.C.® Therapy

Patient Discharge Procedures are not always identical but should always follow a path agreed by the healthcare professional teams in both the hospital and homecare environment.

Simple steps
1. The hospital calls KCI as early as possible before the planned discharge.
2. Your clinician or hospital nurse will arrange for a V.A.C.® quotation to be faxed to your ward from KCI.
3. You must sign this quotation indicating that you are in agreement to cover the costs of V.A.C.® Therapy and seek reimbursement from Vhi Healthcare.
4. With the assistance of the KCI team, the hospital initiates outpatient care.

What happens after discharge from hospital?
1. The KCI team is available for training your home care team (e.g. community nurse, general practitioner, practice nurse) in how to use the V.A.C.® Therapy System if needed.
2. Your dressing changes will be managed by your agreed healthcare professional, (e.g. community nurse or general practitioner) as set out in your discharge plan.
3. KCI will provide you with the required components for your therapy, (e.g. additional dressings) which can be delivered to your home, and then pick up the unit after the therapy is over.
4. Your clinician (e.g. hospital consultant) will advise you of any required appointments for wound review.
Customer Support
You can be confident in gaining access to experts in 24-hours a day, 7-days a week, while you are continuing your therapy at home by calling our Customer Freephone number: 1800 33 33 77.

We know how important reliable service is – especially in the health care environment. That’s why we are constantly focusing on patient needs and evaluating patient opinion of our service:

In June 2007, KCI surveyed 453 homecare patients across 6 European countries:

We asked:
How satisfied are you with
...the delivery service?

...the customer support you received from KCI (If you required any)?

...the therapy information you received?

SOURCE: Continuous KCI survey of home care patients following 453 patients in total across 6 European Countries (June ’07).

REFERENCES