



# V.A.C. Via<sup>TM</sup>

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy System

Designed to get you back to your life



**A PATIENT GUIDE**





# V.A.C. Via™ Negative Pressure Wound Therapy System

## Designed to get you back to your life

Your healthcare provider has prescribed the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy System to provide you with advanced wound healing with V.A.C.® Therapy.

Welcome to a new world of convenience in V.A.C.® Therapy™: the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy System — designed specifically to simplify wound healing for active people.

The V.A.C. Via™ Therapy System provides all the wound healing benefits of trusted V.A.C.® Therapy while allowing you to continue your daily lifestyle. The technological advances built into the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy System help get you back to your life and the activities that are important to you.

This booklet will provide you with helpful information on how V.A.C.® Therapy™ works, the operation of your V.A.C. Via™ unit, understanding your dressings, and tips on how to achieve the best possible outcomes. Please keep this booklet where you can easily find it.

As with any medical device, it is important that you discuss this information and any questions you might have about your therapy with your treating healthcare provider.

If, however, you have any product-related questions about V.A.C.® Therapy™ after reading this booklet, please call KCI Medical Canada Inc. **1-800-668-5403**. If you have immediate medical concerns, please call your treating healthcare provider.

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 healthcare provider. It is not intended to be a comprehensive guide for product use, operation, or placement. Please consult your treating healthcare provider regarding specific questions and important information related to V.A.C.® Therapy™ System indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions and operation.

## About V.A.C. Via™ Therapy

This patient information guide will provide you with important information while you are being treated with the V.A.C. VIA™ Therapy System.

### Wound healing is a process

Proper wound care management is important to heal your wound, and your healthcare provider has prescribed the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy System for your care.

Your healthcare provider is responsible for directing the use of your V.A.C. Via™ Therapy System, including applying the V.A.C.® Therapy System and changing the dressings on a periodic basis. **Do not change any of the settings on the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy Unit or remove the dressing unless told to do so by your healthcare provider.**

### How long will it take to heal my wound?

The length of time to improve a wound is different for every patient. General wound conditions, size and location of the wound, and nutritional status can affect the time it takes for a wound to heal. Your healthcare provider will discuss when and why V.A.C. Via™ Therapy may end.

### What is V.A.C.® Therapy?

V.A.C. stands for vacuum-assisted closure. The V.A.C.® Therapy System is a medical device that delivers controlled negative pressure (vacuum) to your wound and creates an environment that promotes the wound healing process. The negative pressure helps to close your wound and bring the wound edges together. Unlike gauze bandages that merely cover a wound, V.A.C.® Therapy actively works to help the wound healing process. Advantages of the V.A.C.® Therapy System include:

- Helping to promote wound healing
- Providing a moist wound healing environment
- Helping to draw wound edges together
- Removing fluid and infectious materials
- Helping to control wound odour
- Reducing the need for daily dressing changes

### Why V.A.C.® Therapy?

V.A.C.® Therapy has helped to promote wound healing for millions of patients worldwide. Doctors, nurses and hospitals all rely on V.A.C.® Therapy as an advanced therapy to help their patients heal.



## How does V.A.C.® Therapy work?

The V.A.C.® Therapy System is an advanced wound therapy system consisting of the following parts:

- A therapy unit (you have been prescribed the V.A.C.Via™ Therapy Unit)
- Special foam dressing (V.A.C.® GranuFoam™ Dressing)
- Sterile plastic tubing
- Clear drape with adhesive (V.A.C.® Advanced Drape)
- Canister for collection of wound fluid



## About the V.A.C.Via™ Therapy System

The V.A.C.Via™ Therapy System is an ultra-portable V.A.C.® Therapy Unit, small enough to fit in the palm of your hand and to wear under clothing. The V.A.C.Via™ Therapy Unit weighs less than a pound, so you may even forget you're wearing it. The V.A.C.Via™ Therapy Unit is virtually silent, so no one needs to know it's there.

Small, lightweight and virtually silent  
V.A.C.Via™ Therapy Unit.



# V.A.C. Via™ Negative Pressure Wound Therapy System

The integrated V.A.C. Via™ Negative Pressure Wound Therapy System consists of the following:

V.A.C. Via™ Therapy Unit:	The small and virtually silent V.A.C. Via™ Therapy Unit controls the negative pressure at the wound site. It provides 7 days of continuous V.A.C.® Therapy, as well as alarms to notify you of blockages, negative pressure leaks, when the battery needs to be recharged, or when therapy has ended. <i>(A complete description of the alarms is provided on pages 16 and 17 of this booklet.)</i>
Power cord:	The cord is used to plug in the therapy unit to recharge the battery.
V.A.C.® Spiral GranuFoam™ Dressings:	These wound dressings are designed to work with the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy System to promote healing.
V.A.C.® Advanced Drape:	This clear adhesive tape, used with the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy System, is easy to apply and creates a seal over the wound.
SensaT.R.A.C.™ Pad and tubing:	The pad helps ensure accurate negative pressure at the wound. The tubing removes fluids and infectious materials from the wound.
Canister:	The canister, which fits into the therapy unit, holds drainage fluids removed from the wound.
Carrying case:	The carrying case holds the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy Unit and canister. The flexible case comes with a belt clip and an adjustable strap so you can conveniently carry the unit. Additional clips on the sides and bottom of the case allow easy storage of extra tubing.

Each component of the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy System plays an important role in delivering safe, effective, and accurate V.A.C.® Therapy to help get you back to your life.

# Important risk and safety information

## Patient safety information

At KCI, your safety is our first priority. If you have questions or concerns regarding product delivery, set up or any product related issues, call the KCI Product Issue Response Team (PIRT) at 1-800-275-4524.

- Most issues can be resolved over the phone
- If the issue cannot be resolved over the phone, the PIRT can provide additional assistance.

Your healthcare provider has more information about your wound. Ask your healthcare provider for any additional information you may need before using this product. Do not change the settings on the therapy unit without your healthcare provider giving you specific direction. If deemed appropriate by your healthcare provider, a caregiver, family member or friend may change the dressing if they have been trained by a healthcare provider.

## Warning

If you have recently had heart surgery, surgery on blood vessels, or are on blood thinners, you may have a higher risk of bleeding, whether you are using V.A.C.® Therapy or not. **If you see a sudden increase or a large amount of blood from your wound in the tubing or canister:**

- Turn OFF the therapy unit right away (Press and hold the power button for three seconds)
- Do not remove your dressing
- Apply pressure over the area
- Call 911 (or local emergency number) and then notify your healthcare provider.

## Wound infections

If you have an infected wound, your healthcare provider will decide the right treatment for you. Your dressing should be changed more frequently. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you think your wound is infected or if you have any of the following symptoms:**

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

## Serious infection

Sometimes a wound infection can spread through the rest of the body. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**

- You are sick to your stomach or you are throwing up
- You are dizzy or feel faint when you stand up
- You have diarrhea
- You have a headache
- Your throat is sore
- You have a rash
- You feel confused
- You have a fever over 39°C (102°F)

## Allergic reactions

V.A.C.® Therapy dressings, drapes and canisters are latex free and are delivered sterile. Use these items only once and then throw them away when finished. The V.A.C.® Advanced Drape (dressing cover) has a coating that may cause an allergic reaction if you are allergic to or are sensitive to some glues. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following signs:**

- Redness
- Rash or hives
- Swelling
- Severe itching

**If you have difficulty breathing, seek immediate emergency medical assistance. Call 911 (or your local emergency number).**

## Keep your V.A.C. Via™ Therapy unit turned on

Never leave a V.A.C.® Dressing in place without active V.A.C.® Therapy for more than 2 hours. If therapy is off for more than 2 hours, contact your healthcare provider to have the old dressing removed and the wound irrigated.

## Count foam dressing pieces

Ensure that your healthcare provider records the total number of pieces of foam used in the wound and documents it on the supplied *Foam Quantity Label* (attached to the sterile tubing) and in your chart. Make sure that the same number of foam pieces is removed during your dressing change. A new V.A.C.® Dressing from an unopened sterile package should be applied and V.A.C.® Therapy started again, or an alternative dressing should be applied at the direction of the treating healthcare provider. Call your healthcare provider to have this done.

## V.A.C.® dressing placement

The V.A.C.® Dressing will go on or inside your wound. The wound area will be sealed with the clear adhesive V.A.C.® Advanced Drape that helps maintain negative pressure over the wound. One end of the tubing will connect to the dressing. The other end will connect to the canister that fits onto the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy Unit.

## Changing the V.A.C.® GranuFoam™ Dressing

Dressings should be changed as recommended below:

For non-infected wounds:	KCI recommends the V.A.C.® Dressings be changed every 48 to 72 hours, but no less than 3 times per week.
For infected wounds:	These wounds must be monitored often and very closely. Dressing changes for infected wounds may need to be made more often than 48 to 72 hours. Dressing change intervals should be based on continuing evaluation of your wound condition.

When a dressing change is required, a new V.A.C.® Dressing from an unopened, sterile package should be applied and V.A.C.® Therapy started again. Call your healthcare provider to have this done if a family member or friend has not been trained by a healthcare provider to do this.

## Device disposal

Check with your healthcare provider for disposal instructions.



# Using the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy System

Now that you are or will be using the V.A.C. Via™ Therapy System, please take a few minutes to read this information. You will see how easily wound healing with V.A.C. Via™ Therapy can fit into your daily life. This information is an overview only. It is not intended to replace the detailed *Instructions for Use* provided with your therapy unit and disposable supplies, or to replace the advice of your healthcare provider.

## Your healthcare provider

Your healthcare provider will show you how to care for the unit during your treatment and answer any questions about your wound. You can also refer to the Quick Reference Guide provided with your therapy unit. You may wish to record the contact information for your healthcare provider in the space provided on page 18.

## 7 days of V.A.C. Therapy

The disposable V.A.C. Via™ Therapy Unit operates continuously to provide 7 days of V.A.C.® Therapy. During this time, your healthcare provider will visit to change your dressing every 2 to 3 days — typically Monday, Wednesday and Friday (frequency and days may vary at the discretion of your healthcare provider). After 7 days, your healthcare provider will discuss the next steps for continued wound healing with you.

## Daily use of the V.A.C. Via™ System

To get the full benefit of V.A.C.® Therapy, it is important to use the unit 24 hours a day (unless otherwise ordered by your healthcare provider), except when you are washing or showering.

## Showering/Bathing

Before washing, turn the unit off, close the tubing clamp, and disconnect the therapy unit. Place the unit where it will not get wet. The clear drape is waterproof. Avoid disturbing or damaging the drape and dressing by gently washing the area of the wound and patting it dry. After showering/bathing, reconnect the tubing, open the clamp, and turn the unit on.

**CAUTION:** The V.A.C. Via™ Therapy Unit should not be used where it can become wet or fall into a tub or sink. If your V.A.C. Via™ Therapy Unit falls into water, do not reach for it. Unplug it (if it is plugged into an electrical source). Close the tubing clamp, disconnect the unit, and contact your healthcare provider. You can list contact information for your healthcare provider on page 18.

## Daily activities

The V.A.C.Via™ Therapy Unit is small enough to fit under your clothing and light enough to wear comfortably. You can wear the V.A.C.Via™ Therapy Unit during most of your normal daily activities. Check with your healthcare provider to learn about any activity restrictions.

## Sleeping

The V.A.C.Via™ System is virtually silent, so it should not disturb your sleep. When you go to bed, try positioning the therapy unit on a bedside table if possible. This may give you more freedom while you sleep.

**TIP:** Plug in the V.A.C.Via™ Therapy Unit when you go to bed so that the battery recharges while you sleep. That way, you can keep going during the day.

## Cleaning the unit

If you need to clean the V.A.C.Via™ Therapy unit and carrying case, just wipe with a damp cloth.



# Important information

## When to contact your healthcare provider

It is important to contact your healthcare provider immediately in the following situations:

- If you notice a significant change in the colour or consistency of the fluid drained from the wound – for example, if clear fluid turns cloudy or red
- If you see excessive bleeding under the drape, in the tubing or in the canister
- If you see increased redness in the wound
- If there is increased odour from the wound
- If you have increased wound pain
- If the alarm does not shut off
- If the V.A.C.Via™ System is off for more than 2 hours
- If you change your medication

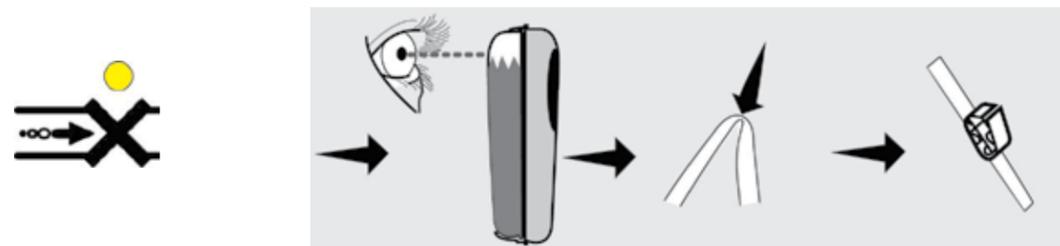
## What family members can do to help

As a family member of someone receiving wound therapy with a V.A.C.Via™ System, your support and encouragement can make a difference in wound healing. You can remind the patient about the importance of using the unit 24 hours a day, every day (unless otherwise ordered by a healthcare provider), except when the patient is bathing or showering. You can also help with responding to alarms and monitoring therapy.

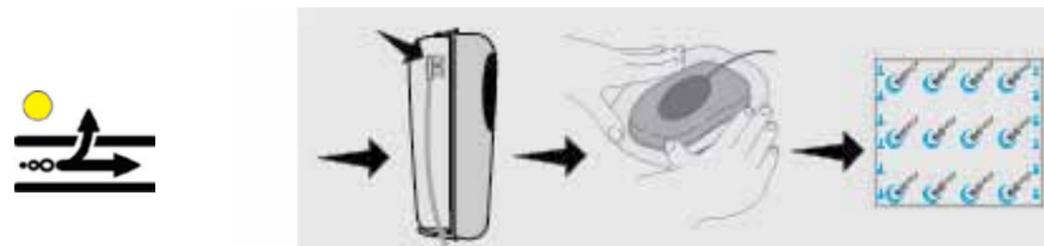
# V.A.C.Via™ Therapy System alarm information

The V.A.C.Via™ Therapy System has several audible and visual alarms that notify you of any problems. Your healthcare provider will review the alarms with you when you begin therapy. Most alarms are easy to solve, but if the alarm condition cannot be corrected, it is important to contact your healthcare provider right away. The V.A.C.Via™ System has the following alarms:

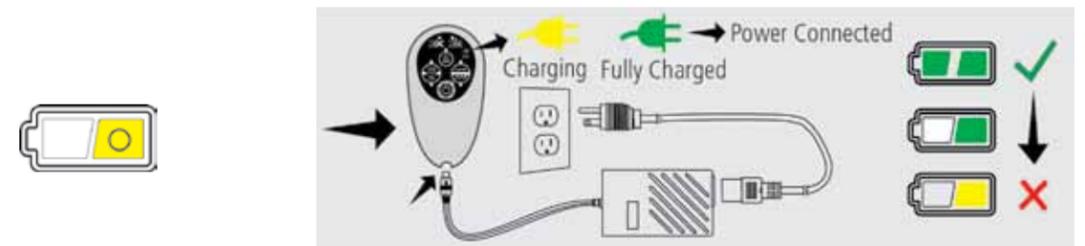
- **Blockage Alarm:** Check for a full canister, closed tubing clamp, tubing kink, or blockage. If the canister is full, simply turn off your V.A.C.Via™ Therapy Unit, clamp the tubing, and detach it from the canister. Remove the canister and replace it with a new one. Connect the tubing to the new canister, open the clamp, and turn the unit back on.



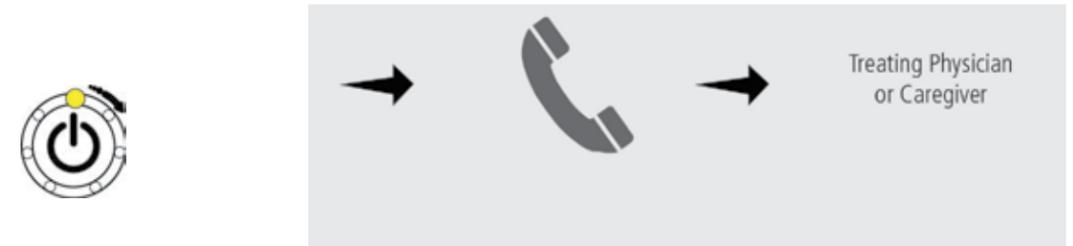
- **Leak Alarm:** Check for leaks. If the tubing connector is leaking, tighten the connector. If the drape is leaking, repair it with a new piece of drape.



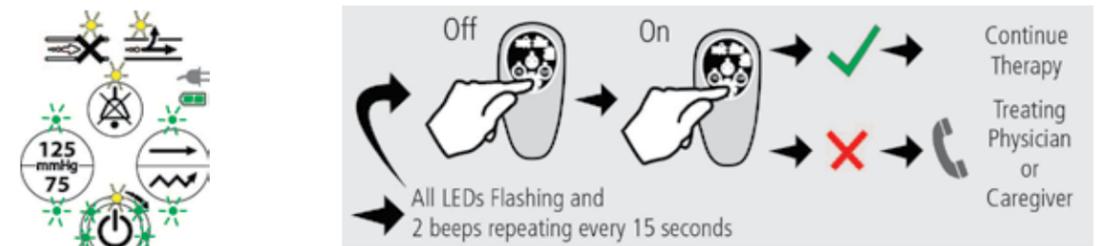
- **Low Battery Alarm:** Charge the batteries by plugging the unit into an electrical outlet.



- **System Error Alarm:** Switch the unit off and on again. If the alarm stops, continue therapy. If the alarm continues, contact your healthcare provider immediately.



- **Therapy Ended Alarm:** Contact your healthcare provider immediately.



For additional information on alarms, please refer to the *Instructions for Use* or the *Quick Reference Guide*.

# Healthcare provider information

If you have any immediate medical concerns, please contact your healthcare provider.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a medical emergency, call your local emergency response number.



KCI Medical Canada, Inc.  
75 Courtneypark Drive W, Unit # 2  
Mississauga, Ontario L5W 0E3  
1.800.668.5403  
[www.kci-medical.com](http://www.kci-medical.com)

Device Disposal: At the end of therapy, follow local institutional protocols for infection control and waste disposal procedures for dressings and canisters. Local protocols for the disposal of the V.A.C.Via™ device should be based on applicable federal, provincial, and/or local government environmental regulations for recycling electronic devices.

**NOTE: Specific indications, contraindications, warnings, precautions and safety information exist for KCI products and therapies. Please consult a physician and product instructions for use prior to application.**

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