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OVERVIEW

Disposable, non-powered mechanical negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) or single-use, non-electrically powered negative pressure wound therapy have been proposed for the treatment of smaller wounds. These devices can be used in the hospital, outpatient, and/or home settings.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

BlueCHiP for Medicare and Commercial Products

Not applicable

POLICY STATEMENT

BlueCHiP for Medicare

Use of non-powered NPWT systems for the treatment of acute or chronic wounds is not covered, as they do not meet the durable medical equipment (DME) benefit durability requirement.

Commercial Products

Use of non-powered NPWT systems for the treatment of acute or chronic wounds is considered not medically necessary, as there is insufficient peer-reviewed literature to support the efficacy of the service.

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Benefit Booklet, Evidence of Coverage or Subscriber Agreement for limitations of benefits/coverage when services are not medically necessary.

BACKGROUND

Negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) devices can be classified as either powered (i.e., requiring an external power source), or non-powered (i.e., mechanical). The focus of this policy is on disposable, non-powered, mechanical NPWT.

NPWT consists of the use of a negative pressure therapy or suction device to aspirate and remove fluids, debris, and infectious materials from the wound bed to promote the formation of granulation tissue. The devices may also be used as an adjunct to surgical therapy or as an alternative to surgery in a debilitated patient. Although the exact mechanism has not been elucidated, it is hypothesized that negative pressure contributes to wound healing by removing excess interstitial fluid, increasing the vascularity of the wound, reducing edema, and/or creating beneficial mechanical forces that lead to cell growth and expansion.

The management and treatment of chronic wounds, including decubitus ulcers, remain a treatment challenge. Most chronic wounds will heal only if the underlying cause, i.e., venous stasis, pressure, infection, etc., is addressed. In addition, cleaning the wound to remove nonviable tissue, microorganisms, and foreign bodies is essential to create the optimal conditions for either re-epithelialization (i.e., healing by secondary intention) or preparation for wound closure with skin grafts or flaps (i.e., healing by primary intention). Therefore,

debridement, irrigation, whirlpool treatments, and wet-to-dry dressings are common components of chronic wound care.

The following are non-powered, mechanical NPWT systems:

SNaP Wound Care System

The portable, nonpowered (mechanical) gauze-based Smart Negative Pressure (SNaP) Wound Care System became available in 2009. The device is designed to remove small amounts of exudate from chronic, traumatic, dehisced, acute, or subacute wounds and diabetic and pressure ulcers. This device is portable and lightweight (3 oz) and can be worn underneath clothing. This system consists of a cartridge, dressing, and strap; the cartridge acts as the negative pressure source. The system is reported to generate negative pressure levels similar to other NPWT systems. This system is fully disposable.

PICO Dressing

PICO is a portable single-use NPWT system that comes with 2 sterile dressings and has a lifespan of 7 days.

Prevena System

Prevena is a single-use NPWT system designed specifically for incisions.

The evidence on portable single-use NPWT insufficient to draw conclusions about the impact of single-use NPWT devices on the net health outcome compared with current care. Therefore use of non-powered NPWT systems for the treatment of acute or chronic wounds is considered not medically necessary.

CODING

The following code is not medically necessary for Commercial Products and is not covered for BlueCHiP for Medicare, as it does not meet the DME benefit durability requirement:

A9272 Mechanical wound suction, disposable, includes dressing, all accessories and all accessories and components, each

The following codes are not medically necessary for Commercial Products and are covered for BlueCHiP for Medicare.

97607 Negative pressure wound therapy, (eg, vacuum assisted drainage collection), utilizing disposable, non-durable medical equipment including provision of exudate management collection system, topical application(s), wound assessment, and instructions for ongoing care, per session; total wound(s) surface area less than or equal to

50
square centimeters

97608 Negative pressure wound therapy, (eg, vacuum assisted drainage collection), utilizing disposable, non-durable medical equipment including provision of exudate management collection system, topical application(s), wound assessment, and instructions for ongoing care, per session; total wound(s) surface area greater than

50
square centimeters

RELATED POLICIES

Preauthorization via Web-Based Tool for Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

PUBLISHED

Provider Update, May 2017

Provider Update, January 2017

Provider Update, May 2015

Provider Update, January 2015

Provider Update, February 2014

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