

PICO and Negative Wound Therapy (NPWT) Selection Guide

The application and management of Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) must be undertaken by a Healthcare professional who has completed the NPWT Module and Competencies.

- Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT)** involves the application of controlled levels of sub-atmospheric (negative) pressure to a wound. The NPWT system consists of a suction pump and is available in a variety of dressing kits to deliver the therapy.
- PICO** is a canister free, single-use system Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (sNPWT) which is completely portable and is clinically effective in the treatment of acute and chronic wounds.

Indications for use

- Closed surgical incisions
- Acute wounds i.e. dehisced surgical wounds
- Chronic wounds i.e. pressure ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers.
- Skin flaps and skin grafts
- Traumatic sub-acute wounds

Precaution and Contraindications – Do not use

Patients with cardiac pacemakers should be aware to keep the PICO pump at least 10cm away from Pacemaker at all times. Assess for any contraindications such as:

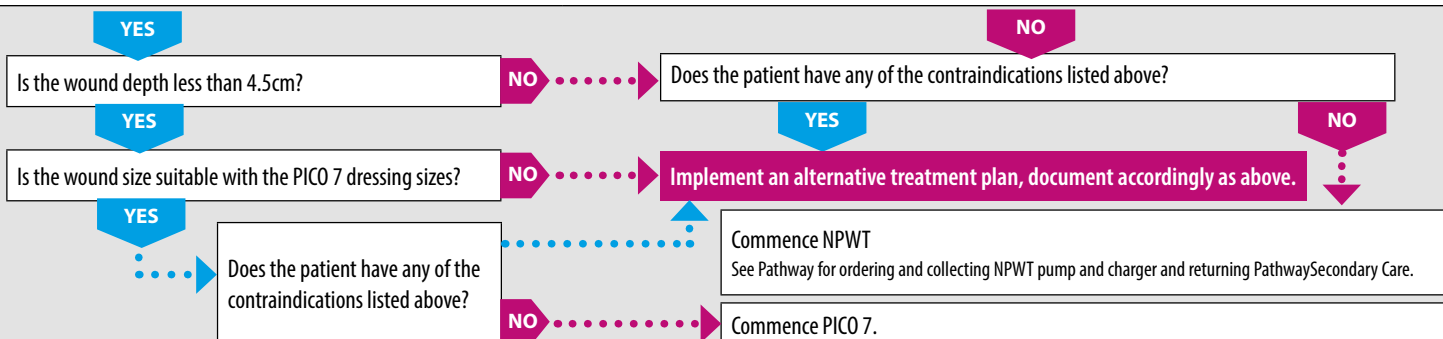
- Necrotic tissue with eschar
- Untreated osteomyelitis
- Malignancy
- Exposed arteries, veins, organs or nerves
- Non-enteric, unexplored fistulas
- Anastomotic sites
- Active bleeding
- Patient non concordance

1. Wound Bed Preparation - Undertake wound cleansing and consider using Prontosan Debridement pad to support soft mechanical debridement in accordance with the Pathway for Wound Cleansing.

2. Assess the wound

- Document a wound assessment on the relevant Skin Integrity Wound Assessment and Care Plan or the Skin Integrity Primary Closure Care Sheet.
- All wounds must be reported on the Skin Integrity Datix/Dashboard.

3. Assess exudate levels - Is the moisture/exudate levels less than 300ml (over 7 days)?



4. Peri-Wound Skin - Dry the peri-wound area thoroughly and apply a skin barrier film as per the Doncaster Wide Wound Care Alliance Formulary.

5. Combination therapy for infected wounds - If the wound is infected, apply Acticoat flex 3 or 7 as a wound bed liner.

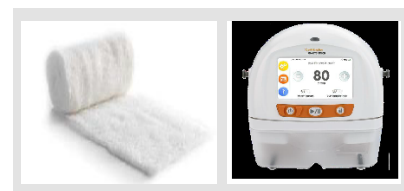
6. Wound Filler considerations

PICO can be used with or without a wound filler.

- Wounds with a depth MORE than 2cm and/or channeling and/or undermining requires a wound filler.
- Apply AMD gauze loosely so it fills the wound bed.

NPWT MUST be used with a wound filler.

- Apply [AMD](#) gauze/ and or [Renasys Foam](#) loosely so it fills the wound bed.



TOP TIP: It is important to always moisten the AMD gauze prior to placement in the wound bed. A non-adherent contact layer must be used prior to application of foam to prevent adherence to wound bed or over exposed bone and supporting structures i.e. Atrauman or Acticoat Flex 3/7.

Throughout the therapy monitor for any signs of active bleeding. If this occurs discontinue the therapy and contact the treating physician/clinician immediately.

Secondary Care information When discharge planning for patients with NPWT send an email to the SIT mailbox dbth.skinintegrityteam@nhs.net to inform SIT so a safe and effective management plan can be put in place.

If the named product on this pathway is not available a temporary second line product is available to use. This can be found within the main text of the Doncaster Wide Wound Care Formulary Document.