



## Wound Vacuum (PREVENA™ VAC) Instructions

You may have a wound vacuum (VAC) placed during surgery. A VAC is a sponge dressing placed on a wound with a plastic seal around it that is attached to a portable suction device. The purpose is to increase blood flow to the tissues, decrease swelling and fluid collection around the wound, and stabilize the wound edges, all so it can heal faster. Your wound VAC will be removed at your first post-surgery follow-up appointment in the office.

There are 2 different types of VACs. One has batteries and lasts for about 7 days. The other requires a charging cable (that will be sent home with you from the hospital) that must be intermittently charged. If the VAC is working properly, the sponge will be sucked down and crinkled. It is normal to hear intermittent purring noises from the device as it uses power to maintain suction on the sponge.

The VACs are used for 1 week. It is normal for the VAC to shut off after a quick alarm after 7 days. No need to call the office. Your first follow-up appointment should be within the next day or so, where you will have it removed.

You may notice alarm lights. Please see the reference page attached for more info.

### **Alarming or loss of suction:**

If the device loses suction and/or begins to alarm, make sure it is on and the tubing has not become loose or disconnected. You can also try to seal any leaks by pressing down the plastic tape around the edges or applying more plastic tape around the edges if you have any. Please also refer to attached information guide. If this doesn't work, you may contact KCI customer service at KCI at (800) 275-4524 to speak to a clinician trained on your PREVENA™ System. If the specialist is unable to get your dressing working again, it is ok to turn the device off by holding down the large power button on the front and call the office during regular business hours. **There is no need to call the office after hours for VAC malfunction. Turn the device off and call once our office opens.**