

# Your guide to NPWT treatment at home



Avance®

SafetaC  
TECHNOLOGY



APRIA HEALTHCARE®

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## Getting started

Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) has been prescribed to help your wound heal. The treatment uses a dressing and a vacuum pump to help promote wound healing, by removing excess wound fluid and helping new tissue to grow.<sup>1</sup>

## Clinically proven therapy

For over 20 years, NPWT has been used very successfully with millions of patients globally. Wounds vary greatly from patient to patient, and NPWT has been clinically proven to be effective in multiple clinical trials and evaluations.<sup>1</sup>

The Avance® NPWT system utilizing the Avance Flex Pump and dressing kits with Safetac® technology has been designed to optimize wound healing, allowing you to carry on with your normal day to day life with confidence and freedom.



## The Avance® Flex NPWT system

Avance Flex is a lightweight, portable system designed to let you benefit from NPWT treatment at home. It is safe, easy to use and dressing changes are less painful as a result of Safetac technology.<sup>3</sup>

The pump has several safety features providing reassurance that you are receiving optimal wound healing. For example, when the canister becomes full the device will alert you to change the canister.

Your healthcare professional will show you how to use the Avance Flex pump and answer any questions you may have before you begin treatment. If you have any other questions or concerns, use the contact number you received at any time.

## NPWT hurts less with Safetac® technology



Traditional adhesive



Avance® Film with Safetac® technology

The Avance® NPWT system is provided with Avance® Film with Safetac® technology. Safetac® technology is a proprietary technology exclusive to Molnlycke Health Care. Safetac® technology is specially formulated not to strip skin cells at dressing removal, making dressing changes less painful and damaging.<sup>2,4</sup>



*The Avance carrying case gives you the freedom to move around more easily.*



*The disposable canister collects wound fluid. When the canister becomes full, it should be changed.*



*The charger powers the Avance Flex and charges the battery.*

*All essential information is explained in this leaflet. You have the additional support of a 24 hour helpline if you have any concerns. Phone: 1-800-780-1228*

# How to use the Avance® Flex Pump

## RUN/STOP (Power) button



Ensure the pressure setting is adjusted to the pressure level ordered by the prescribing physician prior to initiation of therapy.

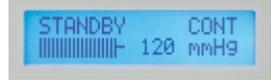
**START the therapy:** Press the RUN/STOP (Power) button again. The system is now in RUN mode.

**STOP the therapy and Power off the pump:** First unlock buttons if locked. Then press the RUN/STOP (Power) button until the unit beeps. The pump will power off.

**Power Off the pump from STANDBY mode:** In battery mode, the pump will self power off when inactive for 1 minute.

**Note:** To avoid waiting for the 1 minute self power off timer, you can force the power off in STANDBY mode by pressing the MUTE button until the unit beeps.

**Power On:** Press and release the RUN/STOP (Power) button. The pump is now in STANDBY mode. When turning the pump on for the first time, the default settings will be -120 mmHg and continuous therapy.



## How to unlock the buttons



After 1 minute in RUN mode, the locked key function is activated. This is shown with a padlock sign.

Press and hold the Lock / Unlock button for 3 seconds to unlock the buttons.



## Mute switch



Press the MUTE button to mute the warning.

Follow display instructions. If the problem persists, call the contact person listed on page 7.

Warnings / Faults	Action required
Canister Full	Change the canister.
Battery Low	Plug into a power source using the power cord.
Leak Detected	Check that all connections are secure, check that there are no leaks at the dressing area.
Tilt	Make sure that the pump is always in an upright position.
Blockage	Ensure tubing clamps are open. Resolve any blockages in the tubing. If the warning repeats, place unit at or below wound site and contact technical support.
No Canister	Check if the canister is properly attached.

# How to change the canister

## Instructions



To change the canister make sure the pump is powered off (if still running, press and hold the UNLOCK button, followed by the RUN/STOP (Power) button).



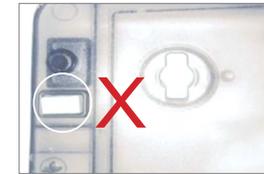
Clamp the canister tubing and remove by turning counter-clockwise and lifting it out of the tubing port.



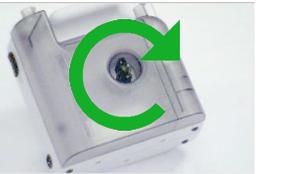
Remove the sealing plug from its location on top corner of the canister. Use the plug to seal the tubing port.



Rotate the locking knob 1/4, turn counter-clockwise and remove the canister. Dispose of the used canister according to local clinical waste policy.



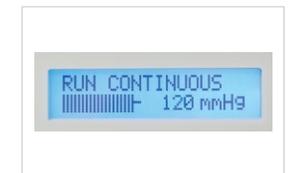
If continuing NPWT, attach a new canister. Remove the styrofoam pin guard on new canister prior to attaching. Attach the canister to the flat face of the pump by matching up the rear location pegs and rotating the locking knob 1/4 turn clockwise to secure. Ensure the canister is correctly located and secured. Otherwise a NO CANISTER message will appear and the pump will not operate.



Attach the tubing to the canister. Push down gently and twist clockwise to lock. Unclamp the canister tubing.



Power on the pump by pressing the RUN/STOP (Power) button. The pump is now in STANDBY mode. Ensure the pressure is set to the prescribed level by pushing the up or down arrows.



Press the RUN/STOP (Power) button again to start the therapy.

Canisters should be replaced as required (e.g. when the canister is full a warning sounds) or weekly. For further information please see the Avance® Pump Instructions For Use.

## Common questions

### How long will I need NPWT?

For maximum effectiveness, use the Avance® Flex for as long as prescribed by your healthcare professional. They can advise you on estimated length of treatment.

### How does NPWT feel?

You might feel a slight tightening sensation, which is normal. The wound may become tender and itchy as it heals, but this is usually nothing to worry about. However, you should raise your concerns to your healthcare professional.

### How many hours a day must I keep the system on?

24 hours a day for best results.

### What do I do if a warning sounds?

A warning is necessary for safety reasons. You should always respond to the directions flashing on the display screen. Contact the help line number if you need assistance.

### How should the dressing look when the pump is operating?

Because NPWT is a vacuum system, it is normal for the dressing to shrink or wrinkle, it is a sign that the dressing is properly sealed.

### Can I move around while Avance® Flex is operating?

Yes – Avance Flex is designed to be portable and keep you mobile. A full battery charge lasts more than 24 hours, and Avance Flex comes with a handy carry bag providing mobility and discretion.

## Tips and hints

- Try to remain connected to the system all the time.
- When showering, disconnect the dressing from the pump using the clamps. Try to avoid soaking the dressing. Re-connect the pump and re-commence treatment as soon as possible after showering.
- The pump must remain in an upright position during use.
- If you accidentally turn the pump off, do not panic. Power on the pump and ensure the correct pressure level is selected. If you are unable to reactivate the pump to begin therapy, contact your healthcare professional for help.

## Call your physician as soon as possible if:

- You notice a significant change in color and/or quantity of fluid in the canister
- You see bright red blood in the tubing or canister
- The canister fills rapidly
- If you have signs of infection such as you get a fever, the wound or surrounding skin becomes warm and red, or you notice an increase in odor from the wound site
- Your pain increases
- You turn the Avance® Flex pump off for more than 2 hours per day
- The dressing falls off and you are unable to replace it

## Call Apria Healthcare or your home healthcare agency as soon as possible if you are not able to address the warning indicator.

### My contact

Use this area to save contact details of your healthcare professional.

Name

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Phone number

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Notes

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**Customer Service: 1-800-780-1228**  
**Visit us at [apria.com](http://apria.com)**

**References:**

1. European Wound Management Association (EWMA). Position Document: Topical negative pressure in wound management. London: MEP Ltd, 2007.
2. White R. A Multinational survey of the assessment of pain when removing dressings. Wounds UK 2008.
3. Rafter, L. et al. Use of a soft silicone-based film dressing in negative pressure wound therapy. Wounds UK, 2013.
4. Davies P, Rippon M. Evidence review: clinical benefits of Safetac® technology in wound care. MA Healthcare Ltd, London, 2008.

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