

## + Evidence in focus

Publication summary: Hughes J, et al. *Br J Health Care Manag* (2020)\*

Smith+Nephew

PICO<sup>◇</sup> Single Use Negative Pressure Wound Therapy System (sNPWT) in a pathway for hard-to-heal wounds helped to support healing of dehisced surgical wounds, reduce estimated overall wound care spend and release nursing hours compared with standard care

### + Plus points

After introduction of a PICO sNPWT pathway for hard-to-heal wounds:

52.9%  
of dehisced wounds  
healed within 12 weeks

513 nursing  
hours were saved  
from use of PICO sNPWT  
versus standard care

21.6%  
estimated cost reduction  
with PICO sNPWT use  
versus standard care  
(from £76,828 to £60,251)

### Overview

- Analysis of a subset of 34 dehisced surgical wounds taken from a service evaluation of PICO sNPWT use for hard-to-heal wounds in the UK, Ireland and Scandinavia
- The service evaluation adopted a previously published pathway for hard-to-heal wounds (Dowsett & Hampton 2017)
- PICO sNPWT was used for  $\geq 2$  weeks (mean duration 3.1 weeks) with clinicians assessing wound responsiveness over 12 weeks
- Wound healing, frequency of dressing changes and impact on the wound care economy were evaluated
  - Wounds with a surface area of 0cm<sup>2</sup> were considered to be healed

### Results

- After implementation of PICO sNPWT in the pathway, 18 of 34 dehisced wounds healed within 12 weeks (52.9%; Figure)
  - Mean time to heal in wounds that fully healed was 6.1 weeks
- Mean weekly size reduction for all wounds was 12.8%
  - More wounds  $\leq 6$  months in duration healed within 12 weeks (56.5%) than wounds  $> 6$  months in duration (45.5%)
- Mean dressing change frequency reduced with use of PICO sNPWT from 4.7 to 3.2 times per week and remained at 3.3 times per week after returning to standard care
- Estimated total cost of wound care treatment over 12 weeks was £60,251 with PICO sNPWT versus £76,828 for standard care (21.6% saving)
  - Nursing time was reduced by 513 hours using PICO sNPWT compared with standard care (from 989 to 476 hours)

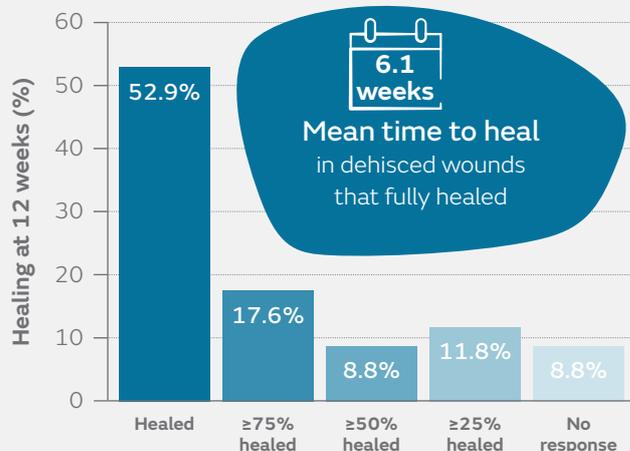


Figure. Status of healing for dehisced wounds treated with PICO sNPWT for  $\geq 2$  weeks at the end of the 12-week period (n=34)

### Conclusions

Use of PICO sNPWT as part of a pathway for hard-to-heal wounds helped to support healing of dehisced surgical wounds, as well as reduce estimated total costs and release nursing time compared with prior standard care in this service evaluation.

### Citation

\*Hughes J, Costello M, Belshaw M, Horton H, Styche T. The burden of dehisced wounds in the community: using early results from a multi-centre service evaluation to propose a standard of care to improve patient outcomes and safeguard woundcare budgets. *Br J Health Care Manag*. 2020;27:1–10.

Available at: [British Journal of Healthcare Management](#)

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