

To the Mayor and Members of Council:

On January 31, 2011, Government Management Committee deferred item GM1.12 (Sole Source Contract for Vacuum Assisted Closure (V.A.C.) Therapy Systems and Services for the Long-Term Care Homes and Services Division). In the report, the General Manager, Long-Term Care Homes and Services Division and the Director of Purchasing and Materials Management recommended a sole source contract to KCI Medical Canada for medical equipment and services being used in our long-term care homes.

V.A.C. therapy is an advanced, medically based wound therapy system that delivers vacuum pressure at the wound site through a patented dressing and therapy unit, creating an environment that promotes wound healing. The use of this treatment must be prescribed by a medical doctor.

Furthermore, the Long-Term Care Homes Act and Regulation 79/10 have legislative and regulatory requirements, including the need for a comprehensive skin and wound care program. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) requires that the V.A.C. be available for residents who require specialized wound healing. In addition to being a legislative requirement for those whom the MOHLTC approves for treatment, V.A.C. therapy is a fully funded healthcare service from the provincial government.

Deferral of the staff recommendations will result in a needless two month delay in securing the contract. The City will not realize any cost savings by deferring this item to the next meeting of Government Management.

First, KCI Medical Canada Inc. is the sole distributor of V.A.C. Therapy Systems and Services in Canada. As the sole distributor, the City will not be able to find a more competitive price. Prices quoted by KCI Medical Canada have been reviewed and confirmed as fair market pricing for both product and rental.

Second, the V.A.C. Therapy Systems and Services are 100% provincially funded. There is quite simply no financial impact to the City of Toronto in approving this contract.

However, delaying this item will have serious consequences. Primarily, it will cause unnecessary pain and suffering to the most frail and vulnerable seniors in our long-term care homes. In addition, deferral of this item may result in the City failing to meet its legislative requirements, jeopardizing our provincial licensing and increasing our liability exposure – which will needlessly cost the City money.

I urge all members of Council to bring this item directly to the February 7 & 8, 2011 session of Council and immediately approve the staff recommendations contained in the report attached to this letter.

Sincerely,

Pam McConnell
City Councillor, Ward 28