

Why Certify as a Wound Treatment Associate - Certified (WTA-C)

DEFINITION OF SPECIALTY:

The Wound Treatment Associate - Certified (WTA-C) is an integral part of the health care team, who provide care for patients with acute and chronic wounds under the direction of a WOC specialty nurse, WOC APRN, or physician.

Wound care nursing involves treatment of acute and chronic wounds, including pressure injuries, and the many complications associated with wounds. WTA-C's working under CWCNs often assist with the most complex and challenging wound cases such as non-healing/refractory wounds, atypical wounds, multiple wounds, wounds of mixed etiology, and wounds that mimic other conditions. By completing the necessary educational and clinical patient contact hours to become a WTA-C, the LPN/LVN or RN will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to provide wound care across practice settings. The WTA-C performs basic wound management under the direct supervision of a Licensed Independent Practitioner.

Wound care nurses monitor many comorbidities and conditions including vascular disease, neurological disease, diabetes, autoimmune disease, arthritis, and trauma. Other conditions include disease or damage of the muscle and neurological disorders related to stroke, spinal cord injury, sphincter damage, alcoholism, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, infection, surgery, and psychological conditions that place a great burden on affected individuals and their families or caregivers.

The WTA-C may be involved with identifying wound and skin injury risk factors, collecting data to guide the development of the plan of care, documenting data and interventions to contribute to the development/modification of the plan of care, and perform ongoing evaluation of the patient. The WTA-C may implement preventive measures for patients to promote optimal skin health, provide wound care for various wounds and pain management. The WTA-C is involved with educating patients, caregivers, and other healthcare professionals on wound care to promote consistent care, and WTA-Cs will be part of the collaborative team for patient wound care. The WTA-C must work within the LPN/LVN, or RN scope of practice under a CWCN or Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP) and within their licensed state's nurse practice act since scope of practice laws vary by state.

Certification Eligibility Requirements to Become Wound Treatment Associate – Certified (WTA-C) through WOCNCB

1. Have a current LPN/LVN, or RN License.
2. Have completed ONE of the following pathways of education or practice:
 - A. TRADITIONAL PATHWAY
 1. Hold a current LPN/LVN, or RN license.
 2. Complete the WOCN Society's WTA Program, or the WEB WOC Skin and Wound Care Associate (SWA®) course within the past five (5) years, under the direction of an approved WOCNCB nurse and hold a current WTA Program or SWA® Program certificate of completion.
 3. Accumulate 16 clinical hours under the direct supervision of an expert in wound care, for example: Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, or an RN or APRN certified in wounds through WOCNCB®. The expert MUST HAVE experience relevant to wound care. Submit all of the above within the WOCNCB online exam application
 - B. EXPERIENTIAL PATHWAY

1. Hold a current, active LVN/LPN or RN license
2. Complete 24 CE/CME credits (contact hours) specific to wound care within the past 12 months meeting the WTA-C Detailed Content Outline previous to the date of application.
3. Complete 160 hours of clinical preceptorship within the past 12 months. Acceptable preceptors to meet WTA-C® clinical requirements are:
 - Any RN holding an active wound care certification through the WOCNCB, i.e. CWCN® or CWCN-AP®. An active WTA-C® is not an acceptable clinical preceptor.
 - MD, NP or PA holding an active certification through the American Board of Wound Management, i.e. CWS®, CWSP®. An active CWCA® is not an acceptable clinical preceptor
 - The experts MUST HAVE experience relevant to wound care. (You will download a verification form from the online application that is signed by the expert.) [Click here to download the Verification Form for clinical hours.](#) Multiple forms may be submitted to meet 160 hour requirement.
4. Complete a clinical skills checklist with the preceptor to include:
 - Monofilament testing
 - Ankle Brachial Index (ABI)
 - Compression wrap
 - Negative pressure wound therapy