

## Advanced Practice Examination in Ostomy Care: Eligibility, Registration, Preparation and Recertification

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Hold a current RN license and/or APN license in your State or territory
- Hold a masters degree or higher to become an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, APRN (NP, CNS, CNM, CRNA)
- Fulfill one of the following requirements to document basic Wound, Ostomy and/or Continence knowledge\*
  - Accredited Education Program Pathway
  - Experiential Pathway
  - Current entry-level WOCNCB certification in the specialty or specialties for which Advanced Practice certification is desired

Register for the Exam thru Castle Worldwide Inc. All APRNs must initially pass the AP-exam specialty test for Advanced Practice, AP, certification.

- The online application process is available at [www.castleworldwide.com/wocncb/](http://www.castleworldwide.com/wocncb/)
  - If this is the first time you will test with Castle Worldwide, then you will need to contact them to obtain an online password: 919-572-6880
  - Provide Castle with the needed documents prior to scheduling your exam
- Choose a testing location where you will sit for your exam(s)

### Exam Preparation:

- Download the AP Exam Content Outlines on the WOCNCB Advanced Practice Certification webpage: <http://www.wocncb.org/certification/exam-preparation/exam-content-outlines>
  - The practice domains and related tasks are outlined with the number of scored exam questions to be found on each specialty test (80)
    - 10 additional non-scored test items are included in the exam for a total of 90 questions
  - Review the content areas to assess where additional self-study may be needed
  - Create a study plan with an allotted time frame
  - Remember the exam has been designed to assess entry-level specialty knowledge – both in the direct and the indirect care APRN role
- References and Resource Materials to assist in the study preparation for the Ostomy Care AP exam:
  - WOCN (2010) Management of the Patient with a Fecal Ostomy: Best Practice Guideline for Clinicians. Mt. Laurel: Author.
  - An authoritative textbook for the Ostomy Care Specialty, an example includes:
    - Colwell, J.C., Goldberg, M.T. and Carmel, J.E. (2004). *Fecal & Urinary Diversions: Management Principles*. 1st ed. St. Louis: Mosby.
  - Peer-reviewed journals specializing in Ostomy Care, examples include:
    - [Journal of the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing \(JWOCN\)](#), Wolters Kluwer Health – JWOCN “Getting Ready for Certification”

\*details available at <http://www.wocncb.org/certification/advance-practice-certification/eligibility>

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articles are now open access. No login is required to access those articles.

- [Ostomy Wound Management](#), HMP Communications
- References and Resource Materials to assist in the study preparation for the Ostomy Care AP exam (continued):
  - APRN Professional Practice Resources addressing the topics of advanced assessment, professional roles and responsibilities and nursing research, examples include:
    - Bickley, L.S., Szilagy, P.G., & Bates, B. (2007). *Bates' Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking*. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.
    - Hamric, A.B., Hanson, C.M., Tracy, M.R, O'Grady, E.T. (2014). *Advanced Practice Nursing: An Integrative Approach*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. St. Louis: Saunders.
    - WOCN Society. (2010). *Wound, ostomy, and continence nursing: Scope & standards of practice*. Mt. Laurel: Author.
    - Burns, N & Grove, S.K. (2010). *Understanding Nursing Research: Building an Evidence-Based Practice*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. St. Louis: Saunders/
    - Polit, D.E & Beck, C.T. (2011). *Nursing Research: Generating and Assessing Evidence for Nursing Practice*. 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Recertification: The recertification period is every 5 years (similar to all WOCNCB credentials). There are 2 pathways for recertification: AP portfolio or retesting:

- Submit a WOCNCB Advanced Practice Portfolio per each nursing certification specialty to meet:
  - 350 clinical hours related to the specialty
  - 40 continuing education hours related to the specialty
  - One (1) professional AP level activity defined in the WOC AP Portfolio Handbook
  - Details available at <http://www.wocncb.org/recertification/advance-practice-recertification>
- Retest thru the WOCNCB-AP Exam venue (please see Register for Exam above)

**Disclaimer: The References and Resource study materials provided are intended as a resource to guide the candidate in preparation and successful certification *after* reviewing the Detailed Content Outline and determining where additional study is needed. Usage of these study references will not guarantee passing your exam.**