

## Message From the President

— MARY WALDEN, RN, MSN, CWOCA



### Where Do We Go From Here?

**T**he WOCNCB™ has achieved many of its strategic goals over the past several years. As I consider the great strides made in the certification programs, I would be remiss not to express a “Thank You” to previous WOCNCB™ leadership. The vision of these leaders helped pave the road for tomorrow. Before we can determine the direction for our future, it is important to consider our achievements.

Computer-based testing became a reality in 2002. This project required endless hours of work by the exam committee to increase the items in the item bank so that four different (but similar-in-content) versions of the wound, ostomy and continence exams would be available. Computer-based testing

allowed the WOCNCB™ to go from offering exams only twice a year at a limited number of sites to year-round testing at more than 120 testing sites across the country. Candidates can therefore select the time and place that’s most convenient for them, based on the options available when they register. We are also developing plans to update our examination in ways that keep pace with technology. For example, soon computer technology will allow us to apply digital photographs to examinations.

The Self Assessment Examination (SAE) was released in 2003 after we received many requests to have a practice exam available. The SAE provides users an opportunity to practice

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## Call for Nomination for New Board Members

Have you been thinking that you are ready to stretch and grow as a professional? Would you like to get involved as a leader in the certification process? Then you should consider running for one of the WOCNCB™ director positions in Spring 2005. Don’t be overwhelmed by the information below - “on-the-job training” will prepare you to serve effectively!

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### We’ve moved

The WOCNCB™ has moved to new offices across the street from its former location. Please make a note of our new address for your records:

555 East Wells Street  
Suite 1100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823

Our phone and fax numbers remain the same:  
Phone: 1-888-496-2622  
Fax: 414-276-2146

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computer testing while assessing their current knowledge level in the areas of wound, ostomy, and continence nursing. Each item has the rationale for all of the possible answers to explain why the correct answer is the best choice. There are also bibliographic references, so candidates preparing to take the exam can enhance their knowledge before they take the certification exam. This has proven to be a wonderful way to prepare for the exams and has, therefore, been very well-received by aspiring certificants.

The foot and nail certification (CFCN™) will become a reality in 2005! This project started in 2000, when a panel of experts met in Dallas, Texas to develop a job analysis. The certification will be realized when the first examination is administered in January. Beth Hawkins-Bradley, a member of the WOCNCB board, and the new foot examination committee has devoted endless hours to developing items for this certification.

The WOCNCB™ continues to explore advanced practice certification. Thanks to the efforts of board member Kathy Wright, the WOCNCB™ continues to be represented at the table with other nursing specialties to discuss the many issues related to advanced practice certification and licensure. Our certificants can rest assured that we will keep our vital specialty visible in these critical and complex discussions. The WOCNCB™ is exploring an advanced practice certification model for Master's-prepared CWOCNs who meet specified criteria. Upon confirmation of the validity and reliability of this WOC – APN certification model, it will be presented to individual Boards of Nursing for approval as an accepted component of APN licensure requirements.

As we consider a strategic plan for the next several years, we have asked some critical questions. What will be the role of the certified wound, ostomy, or continence nurse as the population becomes more aged? Where do we go from here? Who will be the certified nurse of tomorrow? How do we best fulfill our mission of consumer protection? As we plan to move forward, we must look back to where we have been, for it is in looking back that we may find our answers for the future. I believe that the WOCNCB™ should be the organization that sets the national standard for wound, ostomy and continence care certification. Our standards are high, the care our patients receive is highly skilled, and our commitment to providing evidence-based practice is strong.

We strongly believe we should set the standards and define the roles to credential other healthcare professionals. As we have seen over the past several years, there is an increased demand for wound care certification among other groups of healthcare providers. That demand is increasing and if we don't establish these certification programs, other organizations will.

Within the next two years, the WOCNCB™ will develop the next job analysis for WOC practice. This study will be the foundation for the next WOC test blueprint and will provide valuable information regarding the educational level of the WOC nurse. I will recommend that we send this survey to an expanded group of healthcare professionals who practice wound, ostomy, and/or continence care. This step will allow us to explore the feasibility of providing a certification for professionals other than WOC nurses, especially for those who assist us in delivering quality care. The WOC specialty is interdisciplinary, and we continue to explore the certification possibilities for other professionals in related fields.

The WOC specialty has grown beyond the expectations of our founders. It is time for us to achieve the next level as we move forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We ask for your support as we go forward with ambitious plans to support and enhance the possibilities for those of us performing our specialty in the vital job it does for the public.

## WOCNCB B o a r d

### PRESIDENT

Mary Walden, RN, MSN, CWOCN

### FINANCIAL OFFICER

Cathryn Vogeley, RN, MSN, CWOCN

### EXAM COMMITTEE LIAISON

Jane Fellows, RN, BSN, CWOCN

### FOOT & NAIL EXAM COMMITTEE LIAISON

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EXPERIENTIAL & GRADUATE PATHWAYS CHAIR,  
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Kathy Wright, RNC, MS, CWOCN

# Foot and Nail Care examination to be available in 2005

The WOCNCB™ will launch the initial Foot and Nail examination in January 2005. The new credential will be the CFCN™ (Certified Foot Care Nurse). We encourage you to take the exam and spread the news about the new credential!

The Foot and Nail exam will consist of 80 questions, with 17 questions requiring *recall* knowledge, 46 requiring *application* of knowledge in a practice-related setting, and 17 requiring *analysis* or more complex judgment on the part of the candidate. Application processing and test administration will be handled by Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), the same testing contractor that performs these functions for the WOC exams.

If you are interested in obtaining this new credential during its inaugural offering, the WOCNCB™ is giving a **\$50 discount** to those testing during the first quarter (January – March 2005). The *Foot & Nail Care Examination Handbook* is available upon request by contacting the WOCNCB™ by e-mail at [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org) or by telephone at 1-888-496-2622. The exam handbook will also be available on the website.

## Foot and Nail Examination Committee

Diana Gallagher, RN BSN CWOCN®, Chair

Cathryn M. Bratton, RN CDE CWOCN®

Jessie L. Dickerson, RN MSN CWCN® COCN®

Jim McLean, RN BSN CWOCN® CDFN

Mercy M. Popoola, RN CNS PhD

Laura Roehrick, AS RN

Mary Walden, RN MSN CWOCN®

Beth Hawkins Bradley, RN MN CWOCN®, Board Liaison

## Exam Eligibility Requirements

1. Current RN license, and **either** #2 or #3:
2. Completion of formal foot and nail program including five hours of didactic and three hours of clinical practice with direct foot and nail care,  
**OR**
3. Completion of an experiential pathway including five hours CE and three hours of clinical practice (under the supervision of an expert).

## How To Prepare For The Exam

If you are preparing yourself to be among the first of your peers to obtain the new CFCN™ credential, please visit the [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) website. A listing of available education courses, the full examination content outline, and a listing of references are on the website. We encourage you to review this information.

The Board wishes to thank the Foot and Nail Examination Committee members who have had the difficult task of developing the exam items.

Watch our website for the most up-to-date information

[www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org)

# That test is expensive! Where *does* my money go?

— CATHRYN VOGLEY, RN, MSN, CNS, CWOCN, WOCNCB™ FINANCIAL OFFICER

From time to time, the WOCNCB™ receives questions about its exam or PGP fees. We hope this article will enlighten our certificants by showing where the money goes and that our fees are in line with those of other certifying bodies.

Overseeing the development and maintenance of WOC examinations and the PGP is time-consuming and costly. To ensure that the validity and integrity of your WOCNCB™ credentials remain at the highest level, the Board directs teams of experts in the field of psychometrics (complex statistical and analytical studies that show whether an exam is reliable and valid), examination and PGP development, marketing, and management.

The Board is ever aware that the true purpose of certification - whether it is obtained by exam or the PGP - is to ensure the public safety as much as possible for patients with wound, ostomy or continence problems. Whenever it makes any policy decisions, this is always uppermost in their minds. However, the Board also recognizes the responsibility it has to its certificants and works diligently to protect *your* investment by maintaining these high standards.

The income received by the WOCNCB™ is limited to the exam fees, PGP fees, SAE fees, and some small item sales such as the WOCNCB™ logo shirts, credential pins and magnifying mirrors. Of course, each one of these involves expenses too.

WOCNCB™ contracts with Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) in Kansas City to work with CWOCNs to create test items, update the test, administer the exam, and analyze the

results. About half of the WOCNCB's total expenses are paid out to AMP for their services.

The WOCNCB™'s management company, EDI, which is located in Milwaukee, WI handles all routine administrative and operational duties for the Board, including: maintains records, answers certificants' and potential certificants' questions regarding the certification process, designs and creates the semi-annual newsletter. EDI has an efficient team of professionals who arrange the semiannual board and exam committee meetings. EDI assists with the design and set up of WOCNCB™ booth at the national WOCN conference including the surveys and certificants gift items. The management company staff arranges for the board's monthly conference calls and provides clerical support, processes PGP applications, and keeps records of expenses and income. The team at EDI is invaluable to the functionality of the WOCN certification board. About one quarter of the board's expenses are paid for EDI services.

There are also regular business expenses such as insurance, legal fees, financial audit fees, and other day-to-day items. The WOCNCB™ also incurs expenses related to its elections and publishing the "Board's Bulletin" newsletter.

Maintaining NCCA accreditation and ABNS membership costs thousands of dollars, as does attendance at two ABNS meetings a year and one NOCA meeting for the purpose of staying abreast of certification issues. The WOCNCB™ has also invested in the development of new certification programs,

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## You can **un-split** your expiration dates

If you hold WOCNCB™ credentials that expire at different times, you may not be aware that you can get those credentials on the same track by applying to recertify during the testing period of the earliest-expiring credential.

For example, if you hold a CWCN® credential that expires in March 2005 and a COCN® credential that expires in September 2006, you can apply to take both the wound and ostomy exams in the earlier testing period, i.e., prior to March 31, 2005. Doing this will make it easier for you to keep track of when you need to recertify and will save you money. If you

were to take your CWCN® in a different testing quarter than your COCN® you would pay \$310 for application and exam fees for **each** examination, which adds up to \$620 for two credentials. If, however, you apply to take both exams in the same quarter, the application and exam fees for the two exams will only cost you \$360.

If you are recertifying by the PGP method, submit your packet before the earlier expiration date as well. Remember, your new expiration date will also reflect the earlier timeframe.

## Cost Comparison: WOCNCB Credentials vs. Similar Credentialing Agencies

Provider	Credential(s)	Length of Certification	Cost	Other fees	Re-take exam fees
Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Certification Board	CWOCN, or: CWCN COCN CCCN	5 years	\$425 \$300 \$300 \$300	None	\$225
American Academy of Wound Management	CWS	10 years	\$400 *	*plus annual fee of \$150	\$200
Certification Board for Urologic Nurses and Associates	CURN CUNP CUCNS CUPA CUA	3 years	\$195/\$255 (member/non- member)	None	\$160/\$220 (member/non- member)

such as the new foot and nail credential, CFCN™ that will be available in January 2005, and a potential advanced practice credential.

The remaining 25% of expenses are used for two face-to-face, three-day meetings, which occur every spring and fall. The Board, Exam Committee and Foot & Nail Committee includes about 25 members who travel from all over the country. The Board and these committees come together to collaborate and network as WOCN experts. The Board's standing agenda items for the fall meeting include budget preparations for the following year, strategic planning, and committee reports. The spring meeting normally involves planning for the national WOCN conference and project work such as advanced practice certification or foot and nail certification.

All members of WOCNCB™ including the Board and Exam Committee members are volunteers. Only the Board president is compensated with a stipend (\$5,000/yr) for the extraordinary amount of time consumed by Board work.

While the exam fees may seem high to some individuals, the fees for WOCN certification are due only once every five years. This figure is small in comparison to some other certifying bodies that charge a yearly fee in addition to the exam fee and offer only one specialty certification. The WOCNCB™ is fiscally responsible and hopes to keep the WOCN certification as the most respected for wound, ostomy and continence care. We also hope to maintain our fees at a rate commensurate with the value of the certification.

## The Experiential Pathway: An Alternative Pathway to Certification

Many individuals specializing in Wound, Ostomy and/or Continence Nursing (WOCN) follow the "traditional pathway" of candidate eligibility, by completing an accredited WOCN Education Program (WOCNEP). Another accepted route of preparation is the **experiential pathway**. Both traditional and experiential candidates must possess a current license as a Registered Nurse and have completed a baccalaureate degree. A copy of the current R.N. license and diploma or transcripts must be submitted with the application to take the examination.

Candidates who apply via the experiential pathway attend specialty-related continuing education programs and complete "on-the-job" training within the specialty, rather than ob-

taining knowledge and skills through the formal, structured format of the WOCNEP. Eligibility requirements for the Experiential Pathway are as follows:

- Within each specialty for which certification is sought, 50 contact hours (CEUs) and 1,500 clinical hours must be completed over the previous 5 years.
- If a submitted educational program covers multiple topics, the program brochure or class syllabus must be included with the application.

Encourage your peers who work in our specialty areas but have not attended a WOCNEP to consider the experiential pathway to certification!

# Due for Recertification? Don't Let Your Credential Lapse

Professionals have a responsibility to act professionally. This responsibility includes maintaining certification. Certification and re-certification deadlines and requirements can be found on the WOCNCB™ website ([www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org)) or by calling our testing corporation (AMP) at 913-541-0400 or the national office at 1-888-496-2622.

Associate-degree and diploma nurses risk losing their certification if they fail to accept the responsibility for knowing the deadlines and completing the recertification requirements. Effective January 2000, a bachelor's degree became a mandatory requirement for candidates to sit for the WOCNCB™ wound/ostomy/continence examinations. Associate-degreed and diploma nurses were grandfathered in, however, and may continue to take the examinations to recertify **as long as their credentials have not expired. Once a certification expires, associate or diploma nurses are ineligible to recertify.**

The WOCNCB™ has informed certificants of these requirements numerous times in the *Board's Bulletin*. In addition, the information is published on the website and in the *Examination Handbook*. Completing and submitting recertification applications well before the credential expires will help ensure that credentials are still valid (i.e., not expired) in the event a certificant must reschedule or retake the exam. The WOCNCB™ has regrettably had to deny credentials to some individuals who did not hold a baccalaureate because they failed an exam(s) and were not able to schedule a retake in time to maintain their credentials.

Scheduling an exam well before credentials are due to expire also benefits baccalaureate certificants who hold the tri-specialty CWOCN® credential and wish to retain this all-inclusive credential after their name, because **candidates must pass all three exams in the same quarter in order to claim certification as a CWOCN®.** As an example, consider an individual whose CWOCN® credential expires on June 30 (the end of the second testing quarter) and has scheduled her exams for June 25. If a candidate passes the wound and continence exams but fails the ostomy exam, he or she most likely would not be able to reschedule, retake and pass the exam by the June 30 deadline. Assuming an individual retakes and passes the ostomy exam in the next quarter, he or she may sign CWCN®, COCN® and CCCN® after his/her name, but not CWOCN®.

To avoid having your credential expire, please complete your recertification application early. Although the WOCNCB™ is sensitive to individual circumstances, all requirements must be strictly enforced by the WOCNCB™ in order to maintain the high standards that allow it to remain accredited by the prestigious National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

The chart below shows the regular and late deadlines for submitting your exam application for each certification expiration date (by quarter).

Certification expiration	Deadline	Late deadline
March 31	November 15	December 15
June 30	February 15	March 15
September 30	May 15	June 15
December 31	August 15	September 15

For additional information, or to clarify the rules and requirements for certification and recertification go to the [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) website, or call our testing agency, AMP, at 913-541-0400. If you have questions about when your credential expires, contact the WOCNCB™ national office at 1-888-496-2622 or e-mail [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org).

Certificants who have moved since they last certified **must** inform the WOCNCB™ national office either by e-mail at [kmeyer@wocncb.org](mailto:kmeyer@wocncb.org), fax at 414-276-2146, phone at 1-888-496-2622 or regular mail at 555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202, Attn: Kathy Meyer.

## TIPS FOR RECERTIFYING

- Know your certification expiration date.
- Contact the WOCNCB's testing service, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), at 913-541-0400 if you have not received your application and Candidates' Examination Handbook nine months before your credential is due to expire.
- Know the application deadlines and submit your application before that date.
- Familiarize yourself with any changes in the recertification process. Any changes in the process are always immediately available at [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org).
- Enclose the appropriate fees and required documents with your application.
- Questions? Call WOCNCB™ at 1-888-496-2622 or visit the website, **[www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org)**

It is the responsibility of the applicant to meet the predetermined standards for recertification; failure to meet these standards can result in the loss of certification.

# Look What's New!

— PATTI GABLE BURKE, RN, BSN, CWOCN

Have you checked out the WOCNCB's™ website lately? Your Board has been busy revamping the site to give it a fresh new look. Along with the new look, we have made it easier to navigate and find the information you're searching for.

The Frequently Asked Questions section has been broken into three categories: Exam; PGP; and Certification. Viewers will only need to click on the category of interest and all the Frequently Asked Questions within that category will show up on the screen.

If you have a question that is not answered in the FAQs, proceed to the Ask The Board page and type in your question. Board members take turns answering the questions and the answer will be posted online, usually within 48 hours. A new search feature will allow you to search by key word or a specific topic of interest. All questions that have recently been answered for that topic will appear. Questions and answers will also be dated to assist you in identifying the most recent posting.

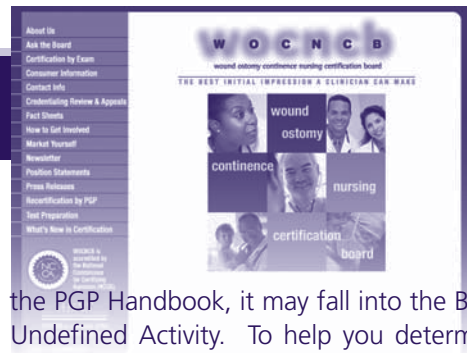
You can also find information about acceptable PGP activities. If you have an activity that does not fall into a specific

category in the PGP Handbook, it may fall into the B11/14 Category - Undefined Activity. To help you determine if your activity would qualify, we have created a page under the PGP section that will list past undefined activities and their point values. If you identify your activity, do the following:

1. Print off the B11/14 page.
2. Highlight the activity.
3. Complete the Category B Verification Form
4. Place the completed forms in your PGP Portfolio and submit your completed portfolio by the assigned due date.

For those activities that are not identified on the list, you will need to mail the completed B11/14 forms describing your activity to the WOCNCB™ offices .

The Board is excited about the website's new look and added features that will make it easier for our certificants to obtain information. So if you haven't seen the updated website, check it out at [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org). We think you'll like what you see.



## Call for Nomination for New Board Members, continued from page 1

### Board members are responsible for:

- Conducting business according to the mission and purpose of the WOCNCB™.
- Contributing to Board governance and strategic planning.
- Transacting the general business and affairs of the WOCNCB™ including the review of bylaws, policies, procedures, finances, contractual relationships and marketing.
- Overseeing the development and administration of the examination and Professional Growth Program.
- Development and administration of the WOCNCB™ certification programs in collaboration with the testing company.
- Working with the testing company in evaluating examination results.
- Reviewing and revising examination content outlines periodically so that it continually reflects current WOCN practice.

### Board members are required to:

- Participate in all monthly WOCNCB™ conference calls.
- Attend biannual in-person business meetings.
- Hold a current WOCNCB™ credential.
- Have a minimum of a baccalaureate degree.
- Have e-mail and internet capabilities.
- Have the skills and attributes necessary for Board governance and strategic planning.
- Maintain confidentiality of the certification process.
- Serve as chairperson or Board liaison to a committee during special projects as appointed by the President.

The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board is an eight-member board comprised of seven certified WOC Nurses who serve four-year terms and one public member who serves a two-year term.

For more information, please contact the WOCNCB™. Phone: 1-888-496-2622 E-mail: [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org)

# Exam scores explained

We heard there was considerable discussion among WOCN Conference attendees in June regarding the difficulty level of the WOC examinations and the percentage of applicants passing the exams. We hope this article will explain how the examinations are developed, administered and scored so they are “psychometrically sound” - that is, so they are reliable, valid and legally defensible. These elements are essential for upholding not only the value and worth of the WOC credential, but the WOCNCB’s mission, “To promote excellence in the profession of wound, ostomy and continence nursing through certification” as well.

## How exam development begins

Every five years, our testing company, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP) performs a job-analysis survey sent to certificants and potential certificants to determine what they do in their day-to-day professional practice. After analyzing this data AMP’s psychometrician, Larry Fabrey, PhD, and the WOCNCB™ Examination Committee, which is composed of 11-14 WOCNCB™ certified nurses from throughout the country, work together to develop a content outline for the wound, ostomy and continence exams. After the content has been determined, they meet twice a year to write exam items, i.e., the questions and multiple-choice answers. **The exam content is always consistent with the content outline that is published in the WOCNCB Examination Handbook. In fact, it is imperative that each item on the test matches a specific component of the content outline.** Items are developed to test recall, application and analysis and test for the minimal skill sets necessary to practice wound, ostomy and continence nursing.

## How a passing score is determined

Each examination has 80 “scored” items and 10 “non-scored” items, for a total of 90 questions. Only the scored items are counted toward a candidate’s final score. The non-scored items are included as part of the ongoing process in which items that reliably and validly measure skills and knowledge are placed in an “item bank” to use for future iterations of the exam.

The Examination Committee and Dr. Fabrey monitor and analyze exam scores closely at the end of each testing quarter to identify any trends, such as a statistically significant increase or decrease in the pass rate for each of the exams. The passing points for the three examinations are intended to represent the *same level of expertise* in each specialty area. They also ensure that the *same amount of knowledge* is demonstrated, regardless of which examination is taken. The passing point is determined by using the results from a complex, criterion-related passing-point study (this study utilizes content-experts’ judgment in what is known as a “modified Angoff technique”). Based on this study, a passing score of 60 was decided upon for all three exams. This means that candidates can get 20 of the scored questions wrong and still pass the exam! Each new iteration of an examination is analyzed by a method called “statistical pre-equating,” which ensures that the passing point will *consistently* be at the same level of minimum competency as the other exam iterations.

Dr. Fabrey explained the pass rates like this:

The pass rate for nurses taking the WOCNCB™ certification examinations may differ from quarter to quarter due to what may be a relatively small number of candidates who are taking the test in a particular quarter. Overall, the passing rates have been consistent over time, and they are also consistent with other nursing specialty certification programs. In general, those who are taking the test for recertification pass at a higher rate – often above 90% - than first-time test-takers. Remember, passing is dependent upon your experience, background, level of education and many other factors.

For testing hints, please visit our website [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) and click on “Test Preparation.”

Have **YOU** moved?

Fill out the “Update” section on the back page, and keep current on our mailings.



## Examination PASS Rates 2003

The following statistics reflect the percentage of test-takers who passed the wound, ostomy, and continence exams in 2003. These numbers reflect pass rates of all exams taken, both those who passed the first time and those who retook the exams. Our testing company, Applied Measurement Professionals, releases these statistics annually.

TESTING	Wound	Ostomy	Continence
1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	81.5%	73.9%	87.4%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	84.6%	85.4%	81.2%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	75.7%	83.0%	78.8%
4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	77.7%	81.9%	76.8%

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

This collection of frequently asked questions (FAQs) provides brief answers to many common questions about the policies, procedures and processes within WOCNCB. Links throughout the answers will guide you to further information on our website or from other sources. Should you have any further questions, please consult our website [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) or contact Kathy Meyer directly at 888-496-2622.

## FAQs

**Q. Can the WOCNCB link to the affiliate websites and visa versa?**

**A.** The WOCNCB links to sites that relate to certification. If you discover a site that may be appropriate, please e-mail us at [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org).

**Q. Why do we have to re-certify every 5 years?**

**A.** Certification validates your knowledge in wound, ostomy and/or continence. Certification also shows that you meet nationally recognized standards in your specialty. Demonstrating you have kept your knowledge current validates professional education and experience, ultimately promoting quality patient care. To read more about recertification, please visit our web site at [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) and view "Recertification by PGP"

**Q. Can we see archived newsletters?**

**A.** Yes, visit our website section by clicking on "Newsletter."

**Q. Can the WOCNCB offer the certification in Canada? Can a Canadian take the test?**

**A.** The WOCNCB does not limit its certification. If a nurse demonstrates eligibility, and passes the certification exam(s), they will earn our certification credentials. If you are unsure whether your educational background qualifies, please contact us via e-mail at [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org). Please refer to our Candidate Handbook regarding test locations.

**Q. I changed my address through WOCN and did not receive my AMP packet. Because the WOCNCB did not change my address in their database, I missed the deadline to sign up for the test." What is the process for me to change my address through the WOCNCB?**

**A.** Since the WOCN Society and the WOCNCB are separate organizations, you must notify both organizations regarding change of address information. Please e-mail the WOCNCB at [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org) if your address has changed since your most recent certification.

**Q. Can someone from the WOCNCB monitor the WOCN chat rooms and give feedback to the questions posed by the users.**

**A.** The WOCN has set up chat rooms for its members, some of whom are certified by the WOCNCB. The WOCNCB can only speak to nurses who contact our organization directly. Please visit our "Ask the Board" feature on the [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) website to post your question. Our Board members answer posted questions on a regular basis.

**Q. Why can't we recertify with CEU's and not take the exam?**

**A.** You may want to consider our alternate method of recertification, the "Professional Growth Program" (PGP) which uses a combination of CEUs and other WOC-nursing activities. For more information on the PGP process, please visit the website section "Recertification by PGP" and click on "Handbook" at [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org). The current practice of CEU only recertification by other organizations may soon be a thing of the past. The American College of Nursing is recommending portfolios similar to the WOCNCB as the best way to document ongoing knowledge in a specialty.

Continued on page 10

**Q. Why is recertification through PGP one price if you are only recertifying for one specialty? The price is broken out for the computer test...**

**A.** There are separate administrative processes involved with the PGP method and the certification exams. The same amount of time is involved with each PGP application, whether the WOCNCB™ is processing one or all credentials. Therefore, the WOCNCB™ charges one fee for PGP.

**Q. Can we just use the initials CWON for wound/ostomy credentials? "Can the WOCNCB™ trademark that credential for us"?**

**A.** The only officially trademarked designations for certification in an individual specialty are:

- Certified Wound Care Nurse (CWCN®)
- Certified Ostomy Care Nurse (COCN®)
- Certified Continence Care Nurse (CCCN®)
- Certified Foot Care Nurse (CFCN™)

One purpose of these separate credentials is to establish role recognition and identity. In order, to achieve this role identity it is important to use only the approved and officially trademarked designations.

**Q. Does the WOCNCB™ have an official policy or statement on the documentation of your certification if you are not certified in all 3 areas? For example, I work with someone who signs as CWON-she is certified in wound and ostomy care only. I thought you had to write COCN, CWCN, OR CCCN for whichever 2 of the 3 that you have. Is there a legal reason NOT to write CWON?**

**A.** The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board is a professional organization dedicated to providing consumer safety and protection by offering credentialing in the areas of wound, ostomy and continence care nursing. The WOCNCB™ has many purposes including providing identification of nurses who have achieved certification in WOC nursing to employing agencies, the public and other healthcare professionals. The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accredits the WOCNCB™ certification programs. Accreditation by the prestigious NCCA assures that the WOCNCB™ has met the most stringent and rigorous standards for issuing its credentials. The WOCNCB™ works with a testing company to ensure that the examination meets professional standards of psychometric soundness and legal defensibility. Upon successful completion (through passing scores of the exam(s), the nurse receives the documented evidence that he/she has passed through credentials offered by this organization. These credentials include CWOCN® - Certified Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurse, CWCN® - Certified Wound Care Nurse, COCN® - Certified Ostomy Care Nurse, and CCCN® - Certified Continence Care Nurse. These are the only legally defensible credentials that have been registered with the government as proof for certification and the only credentials that appear on the certificate. No other credentials exist at this time. Therefore, if a nurse has successfully completed wound and ostomy portions of the exam, he/she would be awarded the following credentials: CWCN®, COCN®. Should someone be concerned about the misuse of the WOCNCB™ credentials, please feel free to access our website at [www.wocncb.org/cred/](http://www.wocncb.org/cred/).

Watch our website for the most up-to-date information

[www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org)

# Promote Your Certification

## WOCNCB™ Products

To order any of these products, call the National Office at (888) 496-2622 or visit the [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) website to access the order form.

### Land's End WOCNCB™ Polo Shirts - perfect for work



These shirts are made of the highest quality, all-cotton, waffle-knit from Land's End with the WOCNCB™ logo and "Certified Nurse" stitched on the left side. These heavy-duty, easy-care, white shirts can be worn straight from the dryer without ironing. Order any size from Small through XX-Large. \$35.00 per shirt, including shipping and handling.

### Certified Nurse Credential Pins

Wearing one of these attractive enameled credential pins will identify you as a certified nurse in your field.



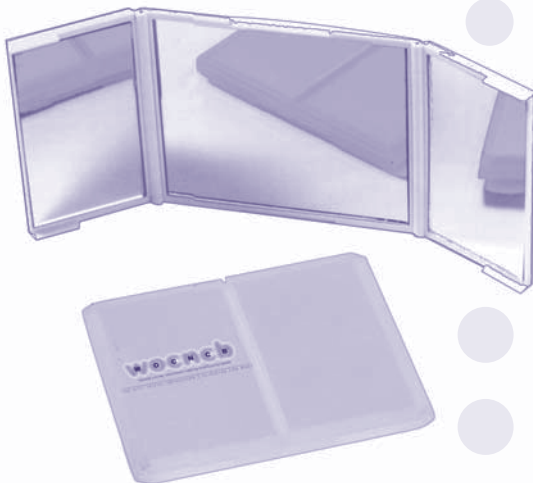
\$30.00 each – **Rectangle Pin** actual size 3/4" x 1/2"



\$10.00 each – **Round Pin** actual size 3/4"

### WOCNCB™ Mirrors

The tri-fold mirror has an easel to allow it to be free-standing, measuring 4-1/2" x 3-3/4", and made very durable. Nurses have commented it's a handy tool to use for debriding wounds/calluses on patients' feet, and that it's very useful in patient education. \$5.00 Per Mirror



### WOCNCB™ PGP Binders Track and organize your PGP materials in a snap!

If you plan on recertifying by the Professional Growth Program (PGP), we have a **handy** tool for you: a PGP organizer binder. Using this organizer will allow you to keep all your PGP materials in order – easily and efficiently. Gone will be the days when you're scrambling at the last minute to get everything in order.

The three-ring binder contains:

- 5 durable plastic pocket folders in translucent colors which hold up to 20 sheets of paper (non-stick and won't lift print off paper)
- 5 durable plastic view tab dividers, in translucent colors which allow you to see your subject titles through the tabs
- Diskette with all the forms in electronic format, so you can customize and fill out your PGP point logs and verification forms, and easily print them in final format.

Cost: \$30



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# Update

## Information

If your name, address and/or phone number have recently changed, please fill out the form below. Thank you for helping us keep our information current.

**PLEASE PRINT.**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

If different from when you last certified, enter "old" name here:

\_\_\_\_\_

My  address and/or  phone number has changed

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street address)

\_\_\_\_\_ (City, State, ZIP)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Phone)

**To:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street address)

\_\_\_\_\_ (City, State, ZIP)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Phone)

Return to Kathy Meyer, WOCNCB Executive Office, 555 E. Wells St., Suite 1100 Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823 or send the information by e-mail to [kmeyer@wocncb.org](mailto:kmeyer@wocncb.org).



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