

Message From the President

— MARY WALDEN, RN, MSN, CWOCN

The WOCNCB™ remains committed to you, the certified nurse! Regardless of your practice setting and current specialty status, you were a nurse first. As we move forward to establish the various roles within this certification Board, it is important to place the patient, nursing, and the specialty at the forefront of all decisions. I believe the WOCNCB™ does this on a daily basis. The members of this Board attentively deal with complex issues while having a vision for tomorrow. The Board will always be accessible to you; we want to hear your thoughts and concerns.

This commitment is leading the Board to seek accreditation by the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS). ABNS was

incorporated in 1991 to create uniformity in nursing certification while serving as an advocate for the consumer. Their values are consistent with the values of the WOCNCB™. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) recognizes accreditation by ABNS as meeting stringent testing standards. The Board hopes to announce at Conference that it has met the ABNS' stringent standards and has received accreditation from them.

A special welcome to newly certified foot care nurses (CFCN™). The Board commends your commitment to your patients. Congratulations!



A Certificant's Success Story

— KAREN WILSON, RNC, BS, CWOCN, WOUND CARE COORDINATOR, BARTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

I have been a CWOCN® for eight months and am proud to share this title with numerous other nursing professionals. But as my nursing career unfolded I never thought I would realize one of my hidden interests to be a WOC nurse.

I graduated from nursing school in 1978 in Southern California. My first job was at Long Beach Community Hospital. I was chosen to be in an internship program at the hospital and given the opportunity to have many "above and beyond" experiences as a new grad as well as to attend many lectures.

One speaker made a lasting impression on me: Evonne Fowler, a CWOCN® from California. She spoke about wound and ostomy care with such enthusiasm, caring and knowledge, that I couldn't help but be impressed. She spoke of the impact that a wound/ostomy nurse could have on a patient's quality of life.

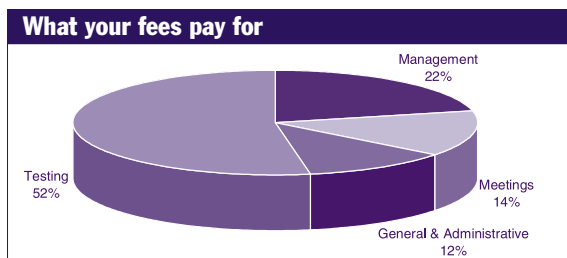
Two years later, my family and I moved to a small rural community in the mountains of Northern California. I was employed at the local hospital with a 67-bed capacity. I was again fortunate to have many opportunities offered to me. The majority of my career involved nursing management but I always loved seeing a "good" wound and hearing how it was progressing. I opened the hospital's Skilled Nursing Facility and again became acutely aware of the problems of skin breakdown, the incidence of pressure ulcers and the impact they had on the patients' quality of life. My interest in wound care was renewed!

● continued on page 3

what's inside . . .

President's Message	cover
Success Story	cover
Money Flow	2
Foot & Nail Certification	2
ABNS Research Project	2
Commonly Asked Questions	3
Elections	3
Advanced Practice Update	4
Conference Sessions	4
Fact Sheets	5
SAE	6
PGP Undefined Activities	6
Products	7

WOCNCB and The Money Flow



Each time we publish a newsletter, we offer an explanation of the money flow through this not-for-profit organization. Board members and exam committee members are all volunteers and spend many hours giving to the organization to ensure the certification process is sound. One of our obligations is to manage the funds, which are accumulated through exam fees and other means of income such as the Self Assessment Exam and Professional Growth Portfolio (PGP).

Above is a pie chart to help you quickly visualize where the money goes. A brief explanation of the categories identified in the chart is listed on the right.

Testing = 52%

- Reminder to recertify letters and Exam Handbook mailings
- AMP Foot and Nail exam services and candidate fees
- AMP WOC exam services and candidate fees
- AMP PGP fees
- AMP SAE fees
- Testing center space and equipment

Management = 22%

- Staff salaries
- Office space rental
- Office equipment
- Supplies

General & Administrative = 12%

- Telephone & fax
- Newsletter printing and mailing
- WOCNCB stationery
- Postage
- Website management
- Credit card and bank fees
- Elections brochures and ballots
- Audit/legal fees
- PGP handbook printing and distribution

Meetings = 14%

- Conferences: ABNS, NOCA, WOCN
- Semi-annual Board meetings
- Semi-annual WOC and Foot and Nail Exam Committee meetings
- Bi-annual PGP Committee meetings

WOCNCB™ Offers New Certification Exam in Foot and Nail Care

The WOCNCB™ is proud to offer a new certification for nurses who perform foot and nail care. A number of nurses have already taken the new exam, which became available January 1, 2005. Candidates who pass the exam will earn the credential "CFCN™" and will remain certified for five years. Unlike the other exams offered by the WOCNCB™, any RN can sit for this exam.

Beth Hawkins Bradley, the Board's liaison to the Foot and Nail Examination Committee, says, "We believe that we are having a hand in the development of a new nursing specialty. We

hope to look back in a few years and know that we had a part in saving the feet of people with diabetes and lower extremity arterial disease. We are very excited about this new exam."

Who should take the exam? Nurses who do routine foot and nail care in any healthcare setting. This is not a wound exam, so keep in mind that the exam content is not related to lower extremity wounds. To find out how to qualify to take the exam, as well as the test content, visit the website, www.wocncb.org. Help us to spread the word about great foot care!

Take time to read this

The WOCNCB™ will participate in a national research project sponsored by the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS). Twenty-one nursing organizations will be included in this study and the survey will reach approximately 100,000 nurses. The study sample will include certified and non-certified nurses.

An Internal Review Board (IRB) for the study was received from the Institutional Review Center, San Francisco, California.

An invitation to participate will be mailed to WOCNCB™-certified nurses, as well as non-certified WOC nurses in April. Once the invitation is received, participants are encouraged to complete the survey as soon as possible. The survey will be posted online until May 31.

The WOCNCB™ will be identified by an identification code. Please take this opportunity to participate in this national research project on certification.

Commonly Asked Questions

The WOCNCB™ is frequently asked, when is my recertification application due? Here is some helpful information to guide you:

How to Recertify

You may either recertify by taking the certification exam(s) or submitting a written portfolio via the Professional Growth Program (PGP). Please read the details below:

Recertification By Exam

In order to recertify by exam, you must send your application to sit for the certification exam(s) by the appropriate deadline listed on the right.

- Applications are **only** valid during the quarterly testing cycle for which you apply.
- You may re-apply for any examinations which you do not pass – within the same quarter – and the re-application must be received 30 days prior to the end of the three-month testing cycle.
- If you miss the application deadline, your credentials will be considered lapsed at the beginning of the next testing cycle. In order to certify again, you will then need to meet the “**Eligibility Requirements**” as listed on the www.wocncb.org website.

Quarterly Testing Cycle	Application Postmark Deadline	Certification Expire
Jan. 1 – March 31	Nov. 15	March 31
April 1 – June 30	Feb. 15	June 30
July 1 – Sept. 30	May 15	Sept. 30
Oct. 1 – Dec. 23	August 15	Dec. 31

Recertification by Professional Growth Program (PGP)

In order to recertify by the PGP, you must send the required documentation provided in the PGP Handbook by the appropriate application deadline:

Credentials Expire	PGP Application Deadline
June	March 1
October	July 1
November	August 1

- You must be currently certified.
- You may not have first attempted and failed the certification exam(s).

To obtain a copy of the Exam or PGP Handbooks, either download and print a copy from the www.wocncb.org website, or call 1-888-496-2622.

A Certificant's Success Story, *continued from page 1*

Three years ago, our Quality Assurance Director recognized the need for a wound program. This program would concentrate on pressure ulcer prevention and recommendations for wound treatment. I was excited about this new program and decided to apply. I felt that my interest in wounds, along with my desire to make a difference in a patient's quality of life and learn cutting-edge technologies would make me a good candidate. I was delighted when I was given the opportunity to attend M.D. Anderson's WOC Program. After completing the program, and with the assistance of a consultant/mentor, our program was developed and has been successfully functioning for more than a year.

I love the variety of the job, the patients and the problem solving. I'm not yet completely over the fear and uncertainty in the decision-making process, but am confident this will subside with time. I am proud to be instrumental in the recommendations for interventions when a staff member

identifies a patient at risk for skin breakdown. I am becoming more comfortable with advanced wound products, how to use them and the satisfaction of seeing a wound progress towards healing. I enjoy sharing my knowledge with the staff, especially new nurses. But most of all, I enjoy being back at the bedside, being involved with the patients and truly making a difference in their quality of life.

I attended my first regional WOCN conference recently and was impressed by the professionalism, camaraderie and fun-loving nature of the group. Most impressive was the welcoming of new members, the genuine concern over how we were doing and the willingness to share information. Unlike the cliché of “nursing eating its young” this is not what I have experienced in my short life as a WOCN. I am proud to have watched (from the sidelines) the growth of this specialty and to now be a part of it.



Watch for Elections Ballot to arrive in your mailbox

Vote for the most qualified candidates to serve on the WOCNCB™ Board whom are responsible for making critical decisions regarding the certification process, budget and strategic planning. Return your ballot by July 15, 2005 in order for it to be counted.

Advanced Practice Nurse Update:

Issues Evolving and Resolving

As you may know, the designation of Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) is an umbrella title traditionally used to identify a licensed registered nurse functioning as Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Anesthetist, Nurse-Midwife, or Nurse Practitioner. Nurses in the various APN categories have been providing health care in the United States for more than 50 years. However, neither the educational preparation nor the certification process for these nurses has been standardized. Attempts by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) to standardize APN licensure requirements have not been embraced by individual state boards of nursing, or by many APNs in the nursing community.

The WOCNCB™ has been chosen to participate in the APN Consensus Workgroup, a gathering of representatives from important stakeholders on this issue. With a focus on advanced prac-

tice nursing education, certification, and licensure, the defined goal has been to produce a consensus statement on the future of advanced practice nursing. While specifics on the work of the group are not ready for publication, the respectful and open-minded discussions conducted at these sessions are hopeful movements toward far-reaching solutions. The final documents are targeted for release to the nursing community at large this Spring.

The WOCNCB™ is proud to remain in an active role at the “tables” where APN issues are being explored and resolved. We are committed to addressing the needs of our APN certificants and are working toward development of an APN certification product in our WOC specialty that will fit into this futuristic vision!

The WOCNCB™ invites you to attend

These sessions at the WOCN Conference

Join us on

Wednesday, June 15 • 3:15 – 5:30 p.m.

and learn how to

■ **Build Your Practice Around The PGP**

by Mary Walden

If you've wanted to recertify by the Professional Growth Program (PGP) method, but don't know where to begin or would like to use the PGP as a vehicle to help you grow professionally, then this conference is for you!

Participants will learn:

- Valuable strategies for recordkeeping and organizing your data
- How to utilize the PGP process to develop a stronger practice and meet organizational goals and objectives while accomplishing recertification

Bring an open mind and a list of past and future projects related to your practice.

and on

Tuesday, June 14 • 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

■ **WOC Credentials: A Legally Defensible Process**

by Cathy Thomas Hess

This session is designed to inform participants of the issues related to certification. Certification is a voluntary process that validates professional knowledge and skills. The WOCNCB™ provides a psychometrically sound and legally defensible method to certify in wound, ostomy, continence, and foot and nail care. An understanding of the certification process will aid participants in successfully marketing their credential.

While you're at Conference:

Visit the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board booth and turn in your conference survey for a **chance to win a \$50 cash prize!** At the booth you can:

- See what's new in certification and the new foot & nail credential offering.
- Preview the PGP Handbook and pick up a FREE copy on CD-ROM.
- Purchase WOCNCB™ products such as the PGP Organizer, certification pins, shirts, tri-fold mirrors, etc.

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


www.wocncb.org

NEW – WOCNCB™ Get the Facts

The Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board has begun posting fact sheets on its website. These will help WOC certified nurses to easily disseminate information to their employers, peers and other interested individuals. The fact sheets are found on the www.wocncb.org website – simply click on “Fact Sheets” and choose the topic that interests you. Topics include:

- Foot and Nail Certification
- WOC Certification
- PGP Recertification


You may download and print the information and distribute them.




wound ostomy continence nursing certification board

THE BEST INITIAL IMPRESSION A CLINICIAN CAN MAKE


GET THE FACTS



The Wound, Ostomy and Continence 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.



WOCNCB is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies



WOCNCB is a member of the American Board of Nursing Specialties

Recertification by Professional Growth Program

The WOCNCB is committed to recertifying nurses using the Professional Growth Program (PGP) process to reflect the most current clinical practices of the WOC nursing profession. Toward that end, the WOCNCB established a PGP Committee, comprised of certified nurses who are responsible for assuring the recertification process meets the ongoing changes in WOC nursing.

Nurses who meet the following eligibility requirements can recertify by completing the documentation outlined in the PGP Handbook.

Eligibility requirements

- ▶ Current RN licensure
- ▶ Current WOCNCB certification
- ▶ Fulfill documentation outlined in PGP Handbook

Recertification through the PGP process requires that the candidate submit 80 points per specialty where certification is sought. A minimum of 10 CEUs must be documented in each area in which you are recertifying. The remaining points may come from the following categories:

- Program or Project Activities
- Research
- Publications
- Teaching
- Involvement in Professional Organizations
- Academic Education

To submit your recertification portfolio, simply complete a Point Log and Verification Form for each activity. These forms can be found in the PGP Handbook or www.wocncb.org. Completed PGP Portfolios are sent to the WOCNCB. The PGP Reviewer will review your portfolio and ask for additional information if needed, or notify you of successful recertification. Credentials will be awarded for 5 years.

To request a copy of the most current edition of the PGP Handbook, contact the WOCNCB, 1-888-496-2622 or e-mail: info@wocncb.org.

555 E. Wells Street #1100 • Milwaukee, WI 53202
www.wocncb.org • (888) 496-2622 • e-mail: info@wocncb.org

Professional Growth Program B14...Undefined Activities Explained

—PATTI GABLE BURKE, RN, BSN, CWOCN

You've read through the PGP Handbook and can't decide what category your activity would go under. Go to www.wocncb.org and click on *Recertification by PGP* then click on *Pre-Approval*. There you will find a list of undefined activities that have been assigned points by the PGP committee. If no activity on the list matches yours, complete a Category B Verification form. Summarize the purpose of your project and provide an overview of the implementation and how it relates to the specialty you are seeking certification in. Undefined activities must be submitted to the PGP Committee **one month** prior to the PGP application deadline. This will allow the Committee to discuss the activity and assign a point value. Remember, the activity must be completed in its entirety in order for points to be assigned. Only a completed Category B Verification Form that fully describes the undefined activity will be accepted by the PGP Committee for review.

You can also check out *Ask the Board*. By clicking on a specific category, previously asked questions can be reviewed. If you are still uncertain about your activity, please post it as a question on *Ask the Board*.

One frequently asked question pertains to the development of new forms used to document care, i.e. wound documentation sheet, care plans, and where they would be placed in the PGP portfolio. What follows below is an example of a question that appeared on *Ask the Board* reflecting a Quality Improvement Project.

Question: I am applying for recertification next month. I have done what I believe to be a quality improvement project but cannot find any specific guideline as to what constitutes this as one. I essentially did chart audits, identified a problem and then addressed it with the staff through education, written protocol and procedure, development of a wound care flow sheet for assessment and documentation, development of a teaching plan for patients, and then reevaluated the project after implementation. Your input would be appreciated.

Answer: What you have done would be classified as a QI Project. You identified a problem and solutions and then implemented a corrective program. After an initial period of utilizing the program, the solutions were reevaluated to determine the results and success of the program.

Example: Through chart audits it is found that wounds are not being charted consistently and correctly on the Nursing Record. A Wound Documentation Record was developed that provided the nurse with a list of descriptions regarding the appearance of the wound. The nurse would go down the list checking off those adjectives that best describe the wound. After inservicing the form and using it for three months an audit was performed that showed correct documentation was found on 90% of the charts.

Remember, answers to any of your PGP questions are just a click or phone call away.

WOCNCB™ Self Assessment Exam (SAE)

The SAE provides self assessment (or practice) to measure your professional knowledge and prepare you for the actual credentialing exam. This web-based SAE gives you instantaneous scoring and results, along with feedback on your answers. The SAE is offered as an optional study tool and is available for purchase for \$90. Please visit the www.wocncb.org website and click on *Test Preparation* and go to *Self Assessment Exam*.

WOCNCB Board

PRESIDENT

Mary Walden, RN, MSN, CWOCN®

FINANCIAL OFFICER

Cathryn Voageley, RN, MSN, CWOCN®

EXAM COMMITTEE LIAISON & NOMINATIONS CHAIR

Jane Fellows, RN, BSN, CWOCN®

**CREDENTIALING & REVIEW CHAIR AND
FOOT & NAIL EXAM COMMITTEE LIAISON**

Beth Hawkins Bradley, RN, MN, CWOCN®

PGP COMMITTEE LIAISON

Patricia Gable Burke, RN, BSN, CWOCN®

MARKETING COMMITTEE CHAIR & NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Cathy Thomas Hess, RN, BSN, CWOCN®

**EXPERIENTIAL / GRADUATE PATHWAYS CHAIR,
AND ADVANCED PRACTICE TASK FORCE CHAIR**

Kathy Wright, RNC, MS, CWOCN®

PUBLIC MEMBER

Miriam Felsenburg, J.D., MBA

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 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.

WOCNCB™ Mirrors

This durable tri-fold mirror measuring 4-1/2" x 3-3/4" has an easel to allow it to be free-standing. 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



THE BEST INITIAL IMPRESSION A CLINICIAN CAN MAKE

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT NO. 3378

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.



THE BEST INITIAL IMPRESSION A CLINICIAN CAN MAKE

The Board's BULLETIN

is a semi-annual publication of the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board

555 East Wells Street • Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3823
888-496-2622
414-289-8721
414-276-2146 fax
www.wocncb.org

Managing Editor

Cathy Thomas Hess, RN, BSN,
CWOCN

Associate Editor

Georganne Dixon
E-mail gdixon@wocncb.org

Management Services provided by
Executive Director, Incorporated
Milwaukee, WI