



## Preparing to take the Wound, Ostomy, and/or Continence Exams

*Jane A. Fellows, RN MSN CWOCN*

Whether you are taking the examination for the first time or recertifying by taking the exam again, it is important to prepare in order to successfully pass the exam. There are several tools available to help you study so that you can feel confident of your knowledge on the day of the exam.

On the WOCN Certification Board website, [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org), there is a section devoted to test preparation suggestions and a bibliography of study materials that will help you to prepare. Look on the left side of the home page for the "Test Preparation" tab to get this information.

The SAE or Self-Assessment Exam (SAE) is a computer-based test available for \$90.00 from the testing company that produces our exam. You can find this by linking to it from the WOCNCB website or by going to [www.goamp.org](http://www.goamp.org) and clicking on "e-store." Then select "Health Care" and then "Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurses." There is also a Foot and Nail SAE available if you are thinking of taking that exam. The SAE has 40 questions in each specialty and you may grade it as you take the test. When you select your answer and click on "Grade," a screen comes up that tells you why the right answer is the best answer and why the other answers are not the best choice. References for the rationale for the answers are provided. The test is available to you for ninety days after purchase. After you exit from the exam for the final time, you will be provided with a score report.

Each year, during the national WOCN Society conference, a review course is offered on the day before the opening of the conference. If you are unable to attend the conference, the CD-ROM of this review course is available for purchase from the WOCN Society. Go to their website [www.wocn.org](http://www.wocn.org) and look under the Education column. Click on "purchase conference CD sessions" which will take you to the site where these CDs are for sale. Many of the WOCN regions also offer review courses in conjunction with their annual conferences.

The WOC Nursing Education Program at Emory University has a certification review manual for sale for \$65.00. The order form is available on line at <http://www.surgery.emory.edu/wocnec/order.form.pdf>. You may also obtain this order form by calling Kathy Rodgers at 404-778-3159 or by faxing your request to 404-778-4778.

The Wound Care Education Program at the Medical College of South Carolina has a Wound Care Study Guide that may be purchased for \$125.00 by contacting Carol Whelan at 843-792-265 or toll free at 866-637-6835.

Also available at MUSC there is the Foot and Nail Review Course on a series of 4 DVD's that offers 5 Contact Hours at a cost of \$225.00. The DVDs can be ordered online and information about the DVDs can be obtained through their website [www.musc.edu/nursing/store/footcaredvd.htm](http://www.musc.edu/nursing/store/footcaredvd.htm) or by calling Carol Whelan at 843-792-265 or toll free at 866-637-6835.

The webWOC Nursing Education program offered in partnership with the Metropolitan State School of Nursing will be offering web cast review courses which they plan to begin in the summer of 2007. They expect to offer these courses three times a year, but have not yet finalized dates or cost. The information about these courses will be announced on their website [www.webwocnurse.com](http://www.webwocnurse.com) as it becomes available.

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## President's Message

By Kathleen D. Wright, RN MS CWOCN APRN



As I contemplated a theme for this President's message, my daughter (a neurosurgical ICU nurse of nearly 5 years) reminded me of the American Nurses Association's Nurses Week theme: NURSING ~ A PROFESSION AND A PASSION!

I have often spoken with nursing students and new nurses at my facility on my passion for our WOCN specialty. I have no doubt that most of you feel that same way about your daily work, and know that you are sharing that committed enthusiasm with your nursing peers, and the care providers of tomorrow! The ripple effect of excellence in WOC-related patient care touches care settings across the health care continuum!

The WOCNCB regularly hears from nurses in a variety of settings seeking "the gold standard" in certification. LPNs and LVNs in long term care settings are most often the decision-makers in the selection of wound, ostomy, and continence management. Due to the eligibility requirements for the CWOCN credential, these nurses, along with RNs at the Associate degree and diploma level, are currently seeking specialty education and credentialing from alternative sources. The WOCNCB is currently exploring the feasibility of providing an alternative level of WOC certification – a unique credential for LPNs/LVNs and RNs with Associate or Diploma level education with passion and expertise in wound, ostomy and/or continence nursing. As you all know, Board Certification is invaluable in that it attests to the knowledge and skill level of the clinician, as well as affirming the validity and credibility of our specialty role. In addition, the knowledge that care is being provided by a Board-certified nurse provides comfort and confidence to those we serve.

If a Board-certified nurse isn't available to take care of our patients, someone else will (although the outcomes may not be as positive)! If the WOCNCB doesn't credential LPN/LVNs or RNs with an Associate or Diploma level education working in the areas of wound, ostomy or continence, someone else will (and already is)!! The WOCNCB is recognized as the "Gold Standard" in our specialty certification, based on our strong didactic and clinical eligibility requirements and a psychometrically sound examination. We want to continue to set the standard in certification for all levels of nursing practice!

We invite you, our certificants, to share your pride in your credential and your passion for your work! Please encourage LPN/LVNs or RNs with an Associate or Diploma level education working in the areas of wound, ostomy or continence to participate in a job analysis survey regarding their current practice. Interested parties should send contact information to Kathy Meyer, WOCNCB Certification Manager, via email to [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org) or call 1-888-496-2622. Thanks in advance for your support as WOCNCB responds to the call for this new nursing credential!

## Certification Fees Change

Effective August 15, 2007

After a review of the WOCNCB fees at the spring Board meeting, the WOCNCB voted for a change in fees whether certifying via the Foot Care or WOC exams, or PGP. We realize that offering several specialty exams and methods to certify/recertify needed streamlining. This change will become effective for applications submitted on or after August 15, 2007.

The new price structure for WOCNCB certification fees are as follows:

One certification = \$300  
Two certifications = \$350  
Three certifications = \$400  
Four certifications = \$450

EXAMPLE 1: You may choose to sit for the Foot Care exam and the Wound and Ostomy exams, and pay \$400 for three certifications.

EXAMPLE 2: You may recertify by PGP for the Wound specialty using the PGP documentation, and recertify for the Ostomy specialty by exam and pay \$350 for two certifications.

Watch the [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) website for new exam, foot care, and PGP applications. You may contact the WOCNCB at 1-888-496-2622 to request information.

## WOCN SOCIETY 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 9 - 13, 2007

Salt Palace Convention Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Attend the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society Annual Conference to find excellent concurrent educational opportunities, strengthen your evidence-based practice and revitalize your career.



Wound  
Ostomy and  
Continence  
Nurses  
Society

Visit [www.wocn.org](http://www.wocn.org) for details.

**Watch our website**

For the most up-to-date information  
[www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org)

## News Bites

Are you looking for the WOCN Salary Survey? It can be obtained through the WOCN Society. Phone: 1-888-224-9626 or e-mail [info@wocn.org](mailto:info@wocn.org).

Benevolence Funds were established to provide assistance to those individuals that are currently certified through the WOCNCB and under going financial hardships. Applications for this fund are available by going to [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org). For questions, please call 1-888-496-2622.

Recertifying? Visit the [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) website and click on "Certification by Exam" or "Recertification by PGP." Contact us at 1-888-496-2622 or email [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org) if you have other questions.

National Nurses Week is May 6 – 12. Join nearly 2.9 million registered nurses in the United States and celebrate the nursing profession!

Keep current on certification news by sending your current e-mail and/or mailing address to: [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org).



## CFCN® – More than Just Alphabet Soup

*Diana L. Gallagher, RN, MS, CWOCN, CFCN*

One of the challenges in having multiple certifications is that the majority of patients, families, nurses, and physicians don't know what the designation really means. There is no question that the general public recognizes that having a designation in addition to the RN is a good thing. In our society, more is usually better. Having obtained any of the certifications offered through the WOCNCB® is a significant professional accomplishment. However, having our newest certification offers distinct opportunities.

A significant number of CWOCN® nurses have always incorporated foot and nail care into their existing wound care practices and, I was one of those nurses. Looking back, I have to admit that if someone had asked me to rate my expertise in foot care nursing prior to certification, I would have given myself a positive review. I did a good job, patients liked me, and I had never had problems related to any of my nail care patients. It is only now that I truly appreciate how comprehensive and life changing this specialty is. Knowing more has helped me realize how much more there is to know. With knowledge comes confidence for the individual. Most importantly, knowledge increases the level of care that is available to patients. For high-risk foot care patients, that means enhanced education,

expanded levels of awareness in assessing for problems, and the ability to make preventing problems a reality.

Certification has expanded my knowledge related to foot and nail care. Since I know more, I am better able to care for my patients. Certification is a visible method of demonstrating knowledge and competency. Certification offers an assurance to the public that safe care is available. Certification does more for the individual nurse in that, it provides a foundation to build a strong future on.

Being certified in foot care nursing can open doors. With a limited, albeit growing, number of nurses with this certification, there are countless opportunities. For the individual who opts to incorporate foot care nursing into their larger practice, it is yet another tool that makes us valuable to an employer. Other individuals have a desire to be their own bosses and start their own businesses centered around foot and nail care. A number of these nurses are not advanced practice and consequently are not able to bill independently but yet set up successful enterprises with cash payments. Most individuals prefer the expertise of a board certified nurse to the option of seeing a salon professional for nail care. Safe, expert care will always overrule pretty nail polish.

## Sure You Can Recertify By PGP

Donna L. Loehner, RN BSN CWOCN



The time has probably arrived for you to be thinking about recertification. Hopefully, you have been thinking of which way to recertify long before the deadline for your application. Are you considering sitting for the exam? Are you stressed with finding the time to study for an exam? Do you have all your study materials handy to use? If these things seem

overwhelming to you, let me challenge each and every one of you to try your hand at Professional Growth Points as a way to recertification.

The WOCNCB has been listening to its Certificants. The good news: the price has just become affordable to recertify by PGP in only one specialty if you wish. Perhaps you still want to sit for the exam for one specialty and recertify by PGP in two. You now have choices that are affordable as well as professionally rewarding. No longer is it \$610 to take the exam in one specialty and recertify by PGP in another specialty.

You can recertify by two different processes using one fee. The bad news: it is easier to recertify by PGP if you have been preparing over the past few years, keeping records of all your accomplishments and professional activities. PGP can improve and develop your organizational skills with the help of the PGP organizer.

PGP can still be completed if you are running out of time but may take more effort on your part. Gather information that you need to obtain points for certain activities: continuing education programs, teaching booklets you have developed or perhaps teaching sheets you have put together to better serve your patients, prevalence studies, quality improvement initiatives – all play a part in completing your portfolio. The first step in recertifying by PGP is to download the handbook at [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) and determine what you need to obtain those 80pts in one specialty. You can do it and will feel so accomplished after completing your portfolio. What a fabulous way to achieve career goals and develop your practice.

I encourage you to try PGP and see how rewarding it can be.

## New Marketing Committee Formed

In 2006, the WOCNCB made a commitment to focus on marketing its credentials and the benefits of wound, ostomy, continence and foot & nail certification. As a result of this commitment, the following projects were achieved:

1. "The Gold Standard for Certification" tag line was selected to reflect the value of the WOCNCB credentials.
2. The marketing brochure was revised to demonstrate the value that a board certified nurse provides to their employers.
3. A patient brochure was developed to educate the consumer regarding the benefits of having a board certified nurse care for them.
4. Creation of a double-pocket folder to be used with patient materials or presentation materials.
5. Informational CDs were developed for the new graduate and board certified nurses to assist in promoting their certification to their patients and employers.

To continue our marketing effort, the WOCNCB established a marketing committee that will continue to assist certificants in marketing their credentials and to attract future certificants to our credentials.

### 2007 Marketing Committee

Cathy Thomas Hess, RN, BSN, CWOCN – Chairperson

Bill Brandon, RN, BSN, CWOCN

Marilyn Burmark, RN, ARNP, CWOCN

Susan Bowles, RN, CWON

Jessie Dickerson, RN, MSN, CWON, CFCN

Patti Gable Burke, RN, BSN, CWOCN – Board Liaison

We welcome our new committee members and look forward to a great marketing campaign!

## Online Credential Verification Available

The WOCNCB® has online credential verification on its website. This resource allows employers to quickly access credentialing information. It also benefits certificants who want to check the expiration date of their credentials. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by visiting [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org).





## Advanced Practice In Nursing

*Carol A. Calianno, RN, MSN, CWOCN*

In 2004, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) began developing a vision paper. This paper is a consensus statement on the education, certification and regulation of advanced practice nurses. In addition to the AACN and the NONPF, 23 other organizations make up the work group known as the Alliance. The WOCNCB is a member of this work group and has been an active in the ongoing meetings to develop this consensus statement.

Representing the interests of WOC nurses is vitally important in this pivotal group. The WOCNCB representative brings the Alliance information on the full scope of practice of wound, ostomy, and continence nurses. The Alliance has identified that specialty certification is essential to advanced practice nursing. However, discussion continues on the distinction between specialization and sub-specialization.

The WOCNCB will continue to be an active participant in the development of this groundbreaking vision paper. Stay tuned for upcoming developments.

## Alternative Level of Certification

The Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB) is currently exploring the feasibility of providing a unique credential. This would be an opportunity for LPNs/LVNs or RNs with an Associate or Diploma-level education to demonstrate proficiency in wound, ostomy and/or continence nursing with formal classroom education and precepted clinical experience. The knowledge and skill level of the clinician can then be validated by a psychometrically sound and legally defensible examination.

If you are LPN/LVN or RN with an Associate or Diploma-level education, or have a team member working in the areas wound, ostomy and/or continence, we invite participation in a job analysis survey regarding current practice. Please send contact information to Kathy Meyer via email to [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org) or call 1-888-496-2622.

**You Got Mail!**

To better serve you, our certified nurses, the WOCNCB will be sending our newsletter via the internet starting in 2008. This will provide you with the most up to date information on certification issues. To insure you continue to receive the newsletter without interruption, please email Kathy Meyer at [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org) so that she will have your correct email address in the WOCNCB database.

## Online voting for the Certification Board

By now, you have received a postcard calling for nominations for new Board members. We thank those of you who have considered seeking a position.

You will receive an email announcing the coming online election with your ballot ID. The ballot ID allows you to log-in and submit one vote through secure website technology. For those who do not have Internet access, there will still be paper ballots available upon request. If you do not have an e-mail address, you may call WOCNCB for your private ballot ID. Call Kathy Meyer to request a paper ballot or ID. Voting for new members for the Board helps us to ensure fair representation.

Please be sure to notify WOCNCB at 1-888-496-2622 or email [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org) with your email address changes.

## Commonly Asked Questions

**Q:** I sent my exam application about three weeks ago, but haven't received confirmation that it was processed. How may I check the status and schedule my exams?

**A:** Applications are processed by the testing agency, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP). Typically, it can take more than 15 business days to process an application and notify the candidate they have been approved to test. Contact AMP directly regarding the status of your application by calling 1-888-519-9901.

**Q:** I'm trying to verify my credentials online, but they haven't been updated. How long does it take for my information to appear online?

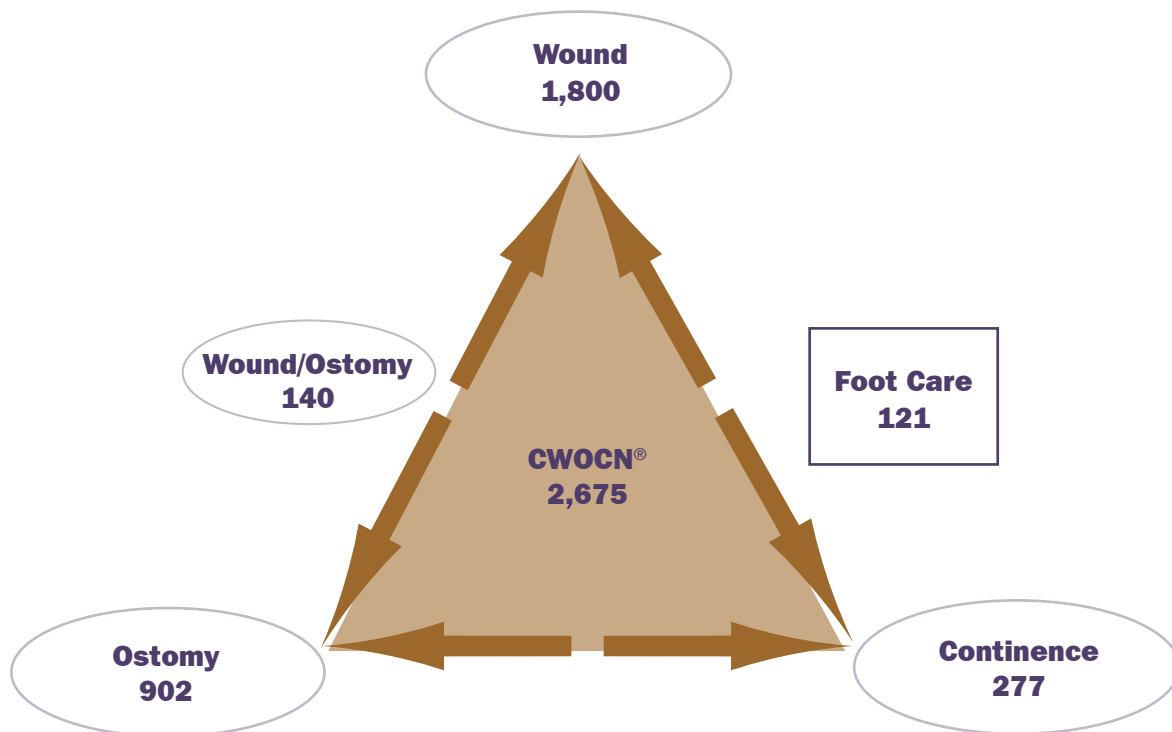
**A:** From the time of your certification exam, it may take up to 8 weeks to appear on the 'Credential Verification' section of the [www.wocncb.org](http://www.wocncb.org) website. The WOCNCB will be happy to send you a letter of verification via fax or e-mail prior to the updates on our website. Please contact the WOCNCB at 1-888-496-2622 or email [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org) to request information.

**Q:** I tested one month ago, and have not received my certificate – when can I expect it in the mail?

**A:** Certificates are issued quarterly, in order to capture the full scope of exams you may have taken in that three-month period.

## Are Your Nurses Board Certified?

Join more than 4,800 RNs certified by the WOCNCB





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## Information Update

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. Note: You must complete this form for the WOCNCB® even if you've notified the WOCN Society; the two organizations are completely separate entities.

### 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)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Email)

To: \_\_\_\_\_

(Street address)

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Email)

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

The Board's

## Bulletin

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