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/
  - 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:
  - An authoritative textbook for the Ostomy Care Specialty, an example includes:
  - Peer-reviewed journals specializing in Ostomy Care, examples include:

*details available at http://www.wocncb.org/certification/advance-practice-certification/eligibility 06/2018
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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:

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
- 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.