Advanced Practice Examination in Wound 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 Wound Care AP exam:
  - An authoritative textbook for the Wound Care Specialty, examples include:

*details available at http://www.wocncb.org/certification/advance-practice-certification/eligibility
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- References and Resource Materials to assist in the study preparation for the Wound Care AP exam (continued):
  - Peer-reviewed journals specializing in Wound Care, examples include:
    - Advances in Skin and Wound Care, Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins
    - Journal of the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing, Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins
    - Ostomy Wound Management, HMP Communications
  - 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
  - Details available at [http://www.wocncb.org/recertification/advance-practice-recertification](http://www.wocncb.org/recertification/advance-practice-recertification)
- Retest thru the WOCNCB-AP Exam venue (please see Register for Exam above)