



POSITION STATEMENT CERTIFIED FOOT CARE NURSE (CFCN) EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

Foot Care (FC) nursing is a distinct and well-defined field of nursing practice that is international in scope and based on a tested body of specialty-related, evidenced-based knowledge. FC nursing specialty practice is consistent with the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS) definition of a nursing specialty, in that there is an identified need for the FC nursing specialty and these nursing professionals devote most of their practice to their area of nursing expertise. FC nurses provide acute and rehabilitative care for people with selected disorders of the foot and lower extremities.

The CFCN® is recognized by CMS: The Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which specifies a Registered Nurse that holds a CFCN may perform services eligible for Medicare benefits. The CMS requires the services to be performed under the direct supervision of a physician or other practitioner. The incident has met with the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, CFCN certification proof is documented, and coverage provisions in the billing/coding are met.

FOOT CARE NURSING CERTIFICATION BOARD: CREDENTIALING

The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board created the Certified Foot Care Nurse (CFCN®) credentialing process, in order to validate the specialty knowledge, skills, and abilities demonstrated by Registered Nurses (RNs) who provide foot care to patients across multiple practice settings. Since 2005, over 700 Certified Foot Care Nurses have elevated the quality of foot care for patients in hospitals, long-term care facilities, podiatry offices, and in their own homes. The increased credibility, recognition, and authority conveyed by CFCN certification have led to greater opportunities to develop foot care interventions that improve patient well-being and enhance risk management by managing foot issues.

The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB) is an international, professional organization dedicated to promoting the highest standard of consumer care and safety by providing credentialing in the area of foot care nursing. The purposes of a credentialing program are to protect the public by establishing standards for professional practice and to assess individual nurses' knowledge and skills related to practice. This assures consumers that the certified professionals have met standards of practice. The National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) Guide to Understanding Credentialing Concepts states, "End-of-course examinations should not be allowed to substitute for professional credentialing examinations, because these examinations are not designed for, and are therefore not valid for, these purposes" (National Organization for Competency Assurance, 2005, p. 8).

The WOCNCB stands firmly in its belief that FC certification improves the level and quality of patient care by defining and maintaining competency within the FC specialties. Furthermore, certification provides a competitive advantage for employment and promotes job satisfaction. The nurse who chooses to certify demonstrates a commitment to FC nursing practice and patient protection. Credentials are awarded for a five-year period. Recertification can be achieved by means of an examination or a portfolio process through the Professional Growth Program (PGP).

The Certified Foot Care Nurse (CFCN) is an integral part of the health care team, providing care for patients with foot care issues under the direction of an APRN, physician, or podiatrist.

The CFCN plays a pivotal role in the guidance of optimal patient care in multiple healthcare settings, including inpatient, outpatient, long-term care, and home health. The FC nurse is knowledgeable in the following: comorbidities and conditions affecting the feet and lower extremities, assessment of vascular and neurological status, development of a patient-centered plan of care, preventative care of feet/lower extremities to promote foot health and reducing complications, treatment of dermatological conditions including wounds affecting the feet and lower extremities, nail care and debridement, injury prevention and management, patient education, and optimizing patient outcomes.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTIFICATION

The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board defines an eligible Registered Nurse (RN) for certification as a Certified Foot Care Nurse as one who minimally:

- Has completed a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree education;
- Holds a registered nurse (RN) license in the state(s) where the nurse practices;
- Has completed the following continuing education and experience:
 - Completed 24 CE/CME credits (contact hours) specific to foot care within the past 5 years meeting topics in the CFCN Exam Content Outline
 - Completed 40 hours of clinical preceptorship within the last 5 years under the direct supervision of an expert in foot care, for example: Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, or an RN or APRN certified as a CFCN through WOCNCB®. The expert MUST HAVE experience relevant to foot care.

CREDENTIALS

The following WOCNCB credentials are registered trademarks and are awarded based on the successful completion of the examination(s) or the recertification by portfolio process.

CFCN®	Certified Foot Care Nurse
CWOCN®	Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse
CWCN®	Certified Wound Care Nurse
COCN®	Certified Ostomy Care Nurse
CCCN®	Certified Continence Care Nurse
CWON®	Certified Wound Ostomy Nurse
CWOCN-AP®	Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse Advance Practice
CWON-AP®	Certified Wound Ostomy Nurse Advance Practice
CWCN-AP®	Certified Wound Care Nurse Advance Practice
COCN-AP®	Certified Ostomy Care Nurse Advance Practice
CCCN-AP®	Certified Continence Care Nurse Advance Practice
WTA-C®	Wound Treatment Associate-Certified

REFERENCES

American Board of Nursing Specialties. (2000). ABNS Standards. Aurora, OH.

National Organization for Competency Assurance (2005). The NOCA Guide to Understanding Credentialing Concepts. Primary Author Cynthia C. Durley, Washington, DC.

WOCNCB. (2026). Candidate Examination Handbook. Milwaukee, WI.

Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Article - Billing and Coding: Foot Care (A56232).
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx>