



# Examination Handbook

- Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse (CWOCN®)
- Certified Wound Ostomy Nurse (CWON®)
- Certified Wound Care Nurse (CWCN®)
- Certified Ostomy Care Nurse (COCN®)
- Certified Continence Care Nurse (CCCN®)
- Certified Foot Care Nurse (CFCN®)

- Advanced Practice:
- CWOCN-AP®
  - CWON-AP®
  - CWCN-AP®
  - COCN-AP (SM)
  - CCCN-AP (SM)

# Examination Handbook





# WOCNCB®

## EXAMINATION HANDBOOK

For the following credentials:

Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse (CWOCN®)

Certified Wound Ostomy Nurse (CWON®)

Certified Wound Care Nurse (CWCN®)

Certified Ostomy Care Nurse (COCN®)

Certified Continence Care Nurse (CCCN®)

Certified Foot Care Nurse (CFCN®)

Advanced Practice:

CWOCN-AP®

CWON-AP®

CWCN-AP®

COCN-AP<sup>SM</sup>

CCCN-AP<sup>SM</sup>

A publication of the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB®)

Revised July 2018

NOTE: *The examination handbook may also be downloaded and printed from the [www.WOCNCB.org](http://www.WOCNCB.org) website.*

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## WOCNCB® EXAMINATION HANDBOOK

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It is the responsibility of certificants/candidates to ensure they are using the appropriate edition of the *Examination Handbook* and following the most current eligibility requirements.

## INTRODUCTION

Congratulations! You have taken your first step to becoming a Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB®) certified nurse. We thank you for choosing the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB®) as your certifying agency. There are thousands of WOCNCB® certified nurses worldwide. We welcome you to join this select group of healthcare professionals.

## ABOUT THE WOCNCB®

WOCNCB® was established in 1978 by the International Association of Enterostomal Therapy (IAET), now known as the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society (WOCN®). It is incorporated as a separate, distinct and financially independent entity. The WOCNCB® is a national, non-governmental certifying agency organized to grant certification credentials to qualified nurses who are involved in providing care or education to individuals with wounds, ostomies, continence, or foot care issues. The organization is dedicated to promoting excellence in the profession of wound, ostomy, continence, and foot care nursing through development, maintenance and protection of the certification process. This process consists of fulfilling rigorous eligibility requirements that allow an individual to take the WOCNCB® certification exam.

Upon passing wound, ostomy, continence, or foot care exams, individuals receive these credentials:

**CWOCN®** - Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse

**CWCN®** - Certified Wound Care Nurse

**COCN®** - Certified Ostomy Care Nurse

**CWON®** - Certified Wound Ostomy Nurse

**CCCN®** - Certified Continence Care Nurse

**CFCN®** - Certified Foot Care Nurse

Advanced Practice:

**CWOCN-AP®**

**CWCN-AP®**

**COCN-AP<sup>SM</sup>**

**CWON-AP®**

**CCCN-AP<sup>SM</sup>**

The CWOCN®, CWCN®, COCN®, CWON® and CCCN® certification programs are accredited by the Accreditation Board for Specialty Nursing Certification (ABSNC) and the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). Accreditation by the prestigious ABSNC and NCCA assures that the WOCNCB® has met the most stringent and rigorous of standards in issuing its credentials. By meeting these standards, the WOCNCB® helps to ensure safe and expert practice of wound, ostomy, and continence nursing.

Additionally, the WOCNCB® believes that ABSNC and NCCA accreditation assures that:

- The validity and integrity of credentials issued by the WOCNCB® are unquestionable and of the highest caliber.
- Fair and equitable standards have been met for each certificant who is certifying or recertifying.
- WOCNCB® certified nurses have earned credentials that are esteemed and valued among their peers, other medical professionals and employers.

*The WOCNCB® is proud of the hard-earned ABSNC and NCCA accreditation, and we hope our certificants share our pride.*

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The WOCNCB® does not discriminate among certificants on any basis that would violate any applicable laws.

## (RE)CERTIFICATION PHILOSOPHY

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The WOCNCB® endorses the concept of voluntary, periodic certification. WOCNCB® certification focuses specifically on the individual and is an indication of current knowledge in a specialized area of nursing practice. Certification provides formal recognition of nursing knowledge in:

- wound
- ostomy
- continence
- foot care

The objectives of the WOCNCB® certification programs are to promote excellence in wound, ostomy, continence, or foot care nursing by:

1. Recognizing formally those individuals who meet all the requirements of the WOCNCB®.
2. Encouraging continued professional growth in the practice of wound, ostomy, continence, and foot care nursing.
3. Establishing and measuring the level of knowledge required for certification in wound, ostomy, continence, and foot care nursing.
4. Providing a standard of knowledge required for certification, thereby assisting the employer, public and members of health professions in the assessment of wound, ostomy, continence, and foot care nursing.

Recertification via examination is an indication that nurses in the specialty demonstrate continual learning and professional growth using current evidence-based practices in the area of wound, ostomy, continence, or foot patient care. The WOCNCB® also established the Professional Growth Program (PGP) to recognize activities which go beyond routine WOC practice, or which represent progression of practice along the novice-to-expert continuum.

## TESTING AGENCY

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CASTLE Worldwide, Inc. is the professional testing agency secured by contract to assist the WOCNCB® in the development, administration, scoring and analysis of the certification examinations. CASTLE services also include the processing of applications and the reporting of examination results to candidates. CASTLE conducts professional competency assessment, job analysis survey and reporting and provides test administration for the credentialing programs.

CASTLE Worldwide, Inc.

6001 Hospitality Ct., Suite 100

Morrisville, NC 27560

919-572-6880

email [ibt@castleworldwide.com](mailto:ibt@castleworldwide.com)

## ABOUT THE EXAMINATIONS

The WOCNCB® offers examinations in these specialty areas of nursing practice: Wound Care, Ostomy Care, Continence Care, Foot Care and Advanced Practice. CASTLE Worldwide, Inc., our testing agency, provides the WOCNCB® with computerized multiple-choice examinations developed by our Wound, Ostomy, and Continence (WOC), Foot Care and Advanced Practice Committees. These committees include certified nurses with expertise in wound, ostomy, continence, foot care or advanced practice nursing. All questions are reviewed for relevancy, consistency, accuracy and appropriateness by the examination committee as well as by a special committee dedicated to item review.

There are 110 scored questions on each examination, plus 10 non-scored pretest questions. The 120 questions are not identified as scored or non-scored. Pretesting items allows the WOCNCB® to continually evaluate new examination questions so that we maintain high quality examinations. Pretesting is an accepted psychometric practice that allows the WOCNCB® to continually evaluate potential examination questions and facilitates the process for candidates receiving instant scores. The statistical performance of the pretest questions is evaluated, and questions that perform well can then be included on future examinations as scored questions. To keep the credentialing examinations secure and reflective of current practice, new questions are continuously developed and introduced in versions of the examinations. Examination scores are based upon only previously used examination questions.

Candidates are allowed 120 minutes to complete each examination. Examinations are administered individually and can be scheduled to be taken sequentially or on separate days.

**Please note that the passing score can change from one examination to the next due to slight differences in content / difficulty on varying exams administered. Therefore, WOCNCB does not publicly publish the number of questions needed for a passing score.**

## CREDENTIALS

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All WOCNCB® credentials are registered trademarks and can only be used after successfully completing the necessary examinations. Candidates passing the wound, ostomy, and continence examinations within 12 months from the time of application will be awarded the Certified Wound Ostomy Continence Nurse (CWOCN®) or Advanced Practice (CWOCN-AP®) tri-specialty credential. Those passing the wound and ostomy exams within 12 months of exam application will be awarded the Certified Wound Ostomy Nurse (CWON®) or Advanced Practice (CWON-AP®) credential. Those passing two, three or four examinations outside 12 months will receive individual credentials as Certified Wound Care Nurse (CWCN®), Certified Ostomy Care Nurse (COCN®), Certified Continence Care Nurse (CCCN®), Certified Foot Care Nurse (CFCN®), or the Advanced Practice (COCN-AP®) (CCCN-AP<sup>sm</sup>) (CWCN-AP®).

The above eleven credentials are the only valid/trademarked credentials issued by the WOCNCB®, and use of any other combination is prohibited. **CREDENTIALS ARE VALID FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS.**

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR WOUND, OSTOMY, OR CONTINENCE EXAMS

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Candidates that do not currently hold the desired certification are considered an initial candidate, including candidates whose certification has lapsed. All candidates must take a certification exam to earn credentials initially.

DO NOT submit an application before satisfying all eligibility requirements listed below. Documentation of eligibility must be provided with the candidate's application.

*NOTE: Applications incomplete after 90 days from the date of submission will be closed, and the examination fee will be forfeited.*

### INITIAL (FIRST-TIME) CANDIDATES MUST:

1. Have a current RN License.
2. Hold a bachelor's (or higher) degree.
3. Have completed ONE of the following pathways of education or practice:
  - A. TRADITIONAL PATHWAY
    - Graduate from an accredited WOC (or WCET international) Nursing Education Program. See page 16 for the program codes. For the most current list of programs, visit [http://www.WOCNCB.org/pdf/WOCNEP\\_overview.pdf](http://www.WOCNCB.org/pdf/WOCNEP_overview.pdf)
    - The WOC(ET) Nursing Education Program must have been completed within the past 5 years (from date of exam application), or otherwise you must prove eligibility via the Experiential Pathway.
    - The WOC/ET Nursing Education Program must be accredited by the WOCN® Society /WCET International at the time of graduation.
  - B. EXPERIENTIAL PATHWAY
    - The accumulation of direct patient clinical hours and continuing education credits (contact hours) must be earned post-bachelor's degree while practicing as an RN.
    - For each specialty for which certification is sought, 50 CE/CME credits (contact hours) or an equivalent in college course work must be completed over the five years previous to the date of application. All CE/CME credits (contact hours) or college course work must directly apply to the specialty area for which applied.
    - For each certification specialty, 1500 direct patient clinical hours must be completed within the previous five years. Further, 375 hours must have occurred within the year prior to application.
4. Submit exam application with applicable fee and support materials (see checklist on page 10).

### RETAKE CANDIDATES MUST:

1. Be currently licensed as a Registered Nurse.
  - A copy of current RN license must accompany a completed application, if it has expired since your last exam.
2. There is a 30-day waiting period before retesting after an unsuccessful exam.
3. Submit exam application with applicable fee.
4. Successfully complete exams.

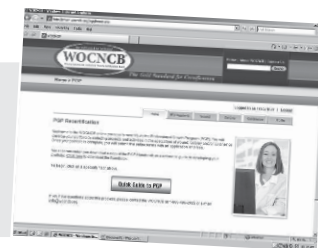
### RECERTIFYING CANDIDATES MUST:

1. Be currently certified by the WOCNCB® with the credential in which recertification is being sought. If not, see Lapsed Credentials below.
2. Be currently licensed as a Registered Nurse.
  - A copy of current RN license must accompany a completed application.
3. Submit renewal application with applicable fee.
4. Successfully complete exams.

## ANOTHER OPTION FOR RECERTIFICATION

### PROFESSIONAL GROWTH PROGRAM (PGP)

As an alternative to testing for recertification, eligible candidates may choose to submit a professional portfolio online via the WOCNCB®'s Professional Growth Program. Visit the WOCNCB® website at [www.WOCNCB.org/pgp/](http://www.WOCNCB.org/pgp/) for more information about application and portfolio submission requirements.



## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR **ADVANCED PRACTICE WOUND, OSTOMY, OR CONTINENCE EXAMS**

Do Not submit an application before satisfying all eligibility requirements listed below. Documentation of eligibility must be provided with the candidate's application.

**NOTE:** *Applications incomplete after 90 days from the date of submission will be closed, and the examination fee will be forfeited.*

To be eligible for the Advanced Practice certification exam(s) by the WOCNCB®, a certificant must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Hold a current RN or APN license. (A copy of the current license must be submitted with your application.)
2. Have completed a MSN or higher nursing degree program to become an APRN (Nurse Practitioner (NP), Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS), Nurse-Mid Wife (NMW), Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA)). Candidates must document ANP education by submitting a copy of at least one of the following:
  - Transcript showing Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist education at the Masters Level
  - Diploma showing Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist education at the Masters Level
  - Current licensure as a Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Current certification, by a nationally recognized body, as a Nurse Practitioner or Clinical Nurse Specialist
  - Letter from school of nursing stating MSN program prepared graduate as a CNS or NP.
3. Fulfill ONE of the following requirements to document basic Wound, Ostomy, and/or Continence knowledge:
  - a. Accredited Education Program Pathway (Fulfill ALL of the following requirements)
    - i. Complete a WOC Nursing Education Program that is accredited by WOCN®.
    - ii. Candidates are required to successfully complete exam(s) within five years of graduation from a Wound, Ostomy, Continence Education Program. Beyond five years, candidates are required to prove eligibility via the Experiential Pathway in order to take exams.
    - iii. The WOC Nursing Education Program must be accredited at the time of graduation.
    - iv. A copy of your certificate of completion/graduation must be submitted with your application. Please contact an accredited program for more information.
  - b. Experiential Pathway (Fulfill ALL of the following requirements)
    - i. Within each specialty for which certification is sought, 50 contact hours or an equivalent in college course work post-Bachelor's, must be completed over the previous five years. All contact hours or college course work must directly apply to the specialty area for which you apply.
    - ii. For each certification specialty, 1500 clinical hours must be completed over the previous five years. Further, 375 of those hours must have occurred within a year prior to application.
    - iii. Accumulation of contact and clinical hours must be earned post-Bachelor's and while functioning as an RN. Please read the complete instructions regarding documentation required in the Experiential Pathway section of this Handbook.
  - c. Hold current entry-level WOCNCB® certification in the specialty or specialties for which Advanced Practice certification is sought.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *These AP examinations DO NOT provide the individual with certification within an Advanced Practice role and population. These examinations provide specialty certification.*

### RETAKE CANDIDATES MUST:

1. Be currently licensed as a Registered Nurse.
  - A copy of current RN license must accompany a completed application, if it has expired since your last exam.
2. There is a 30-day waiting period before retesting after an unsuccessful exam.
3. Submit retake exam application with applicable fee.



**RECERTIFYING CANDIDATES MUST:**

1. Be currently certified by the WOCNCB® with the credential in which recertification is being sought.
2. Be currently licensed as a Registered Nurse.
  - A copy of current RN license must accompany a completed application, if it has expired since your last exam.
3. Submit fees with exam application or AP portfolio using AP Handbook requirements.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOT CARE EXAM**

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Candidates that do not currently hold the desired certification are considered an initial candidate, including candidates whose certification has lapsed. All candidates must take a certification exam to earn credentials initially.

DO NOT submit an application before satisfying all eligibility requirements listed below. Documentation of eligibility must be provided with the candidate's application.

NOTE: *Applications incomplete after 90 days from the date of submission will be closed and the examination fee will be forfeited.*

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOT CARE EXAM****INITIAL (FIRST-TIME) CANDIDATES MUST:**

1. Have a current RN License.
2. Hold a Bachelor's Degree (or higher)
3. Complete BOTH of the following:
  - a. Accumulate a minimum of 24 CE/CME credits (contact hours) specific to foot care. Please note: 8 of 24 CE/CME may be in basic skin and wound care.  
FAST TRACK for the CWCN, CWON, CWOCN – your CWCN will replace the 8 CE in basic skin/wound care, leaving 16 CE specific to foot care.  
and
  - b. Accumulate a minimum of 40 clinical hours under the direct supervision of an expert in foot care for example: Physician, Podiatrist, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, or a CFCN®. The expert MUST HAVE experience relevant to foot care. Please note: 12 of 40 clinical hours may be in basic skin and wound care, under the direct supervision of a wound care expert. FAST TRACK FOR THE CWCN, CWON, CWOCN – your CWCN will replace the 12 clinical hours in basic skin/wound care, leaving 28 clinical hours in foot care.
    - Both the CE/CME credits (contact hours) and clinical hours must be specific to foot care and must be completed within the previous 5 years from the date of the application while functioning as an RN.
    - Note: Candidates that do not currently hold the desired certification are considered an initial candidate, including candidates whose certification has lapsed. All candidates must take a certification exam to earn credentials initially. All who currently hold the certification at that time will maintain and be able to recertify their CFCN® credential as long as there is no lapse in certification. If credentials lapse, a Bachelor's degree will be required for establishing certification.

**RETAKE CANDIDATES MUST:**

1. Be currently licensed as a Registered Nurse.
  - A copy of current RN license must accompany a completed application, if it has expired since your last exam
2. There is a 30-day waiting period before retesting after an unsuccessful exam.
3. Submit exam application with applicable fee.

**RECERTIFYING CANDIDATES MUST:**

1. Be currently certified by the WOCNCB® as a Certified Foot Care Nurse (CFCN®).
2. Be currently licensed as a Registered Nurse.
  - A copy of current RN license must accompany a completed application.
3. Submit renewal application with applicable fee.

## ANOTHER OPTION FOR RECERTIFICATION

### PROFESSIONAL GROWTH PROGRAM (PGP)

As an alternative to testing for recertification, eligible candidates may choose to submit a professional portfolio via the WOCNCB®'s Professional Growth Program. Visit the WOCNCB® web site at [www.WOCNCB.org/recertification/foot-and-nail/pgp.php](http://www.WOCNCB.org/recertification/foot-and-nail/pgp.php) for the Foot Care Nursing PGP Handbook, and visit [www.WOCNCB.org/pgp](http://www.WOCNCB.org/pgp) to complete your portfolio online.

NOTE: Effective June 30, 2012, only online Foot Care portfolios will be accepted.

## LAPSED CREDENTIALS (RECERTIFICATION CANDIDATES)

If credentials lapse, candidates must:

1. Be currently licensed as RN,
2. Hold a Bachelor's (or higher) degree,
3. If lapsed less than 6 months, see "Grace Period" below,
4. If lapsed more than 6 months, follow Eligibility via the Experiential Pathway, or, complete an Accredited WOC Nursing Education Program within the past 5 years (from the date of exam application),
5. Successfully complete exams.
6. Candidates who are actively testing and their credentials lapse due to unsuccessful testing, are allowed to take the exam within ninety (90) days of the last exam attempt. Note: click on "retake" link within your current exam application. If you have tested unsuccessfully beyond 90 days, you must apply as an initial candidate and adhere to the Experiential Pathway requirements. You may not utilize the 6-month grace period below.

### GRACE PERIOD FOR LAPSED CREDENTIALS LESS THAN 6 MONTHS (RECERTIFICATION CANDIDATES)

If you have a lapsed credential of six (6) months or less and wish to recertify, you may utilize a one-time grace period to recertify via examination. The following rules apply:

- A one-time \$100 grace period fee must be paid upon application for each single specialty (not bundled per application for multi-specialties).
- You are not certified during the grace period.
- You must document current RN licensure in the exam application and WOCNCB will verify your lapsed credentials date for your eligibility to utilize the grace period.
- The 180 day grace period request must occur within 180 days of credentials expiration.
- Candidates must test within the 180 day grace period. Please allow for sufficient amount of time for application processing and exam scheduling – we recommend at least two weeks.
- The 180 day grace period starts with your credential expiration date, and only allows for one 180 day grace period.
- The 180 day grace period may not be combined with the 90 day grace period.
- Once you pass exam(s) during the 180-day grace period, credentials revert to your original credentials expiration plus 5 years.
- You are allowed four exam attempts within the 180-day grace period (initial exam plus 3 retakes) and the policy of a 30-day wait period between exam attempts applies.
- If exam(s) are not passed during the 180-day grace period, candidates must submit a new application and follow published Eligibility Requirements as a new candidate.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXPERIENTIAL PATHWAY

### VERIFICATION OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Please upload or submit the following with your application:

1. Complete the online submission of Continuing Education.
2. If using college credits, upload or submit a copy of the college transcript and a course syllabus that includes specific content areas and evidence of course hours.
3. If using CE/CME credits upload or submit a copy of all official CE/CME (contact hours) certificates.

Guidelines for submitting CE/CME Credits:

1. Accumulation of CE/CME credits are to be earned while practicing as an RN (and for wound, ostomy, continence specialties, post-bachelor's degree).

2. CE/CME credits (contact hours) required for each specialty must directly relate to the clinical focus and be completed over the last 5 years from the date of application. Accumulation of CE/CME credits are to be earned while practicing as an RN (and for wound, ostomy, continence specialties, post-bachelor's degree). You must identify the program date, course title, course provider and approved accrediting organization. If a submitted educational program covers multiple topics, the program brochure or topic outline with times listed must also be included with the application. A copy of all CE/CME certificates must be uploaded or submitted with the application.
3. CE/CME credits (contact hours) may only be used once; duplicate courses will not be accepted.
4. Certificates that are incomplete will not be accepted. Complete certificates must contain the name of the provider of the credits, an official signature, full course name and date, name of attendee, number of hours/credits, etc.
5. A list of tips is found on the [www.WOCNCB.org](http://www.WOCNCB.org) website.

Programs must be provided by an accredited provider or approver of nursing continuing education (i.e. American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) or state board of nursing) or sponsored by organizations, agencies, or educational institutions accredited or approved by the ANCC or state board of nursing (i.e. WOCN<sup>®</sup> Society).

### **VERIFICATION OF EXPERIENCE**

Candidates applying for certification through the Experiential Pathway must complete the online verification of experience. The WOCNCB<sup>®</sup> will contact your current supervisor to verify that in the past 5 years, you performed the required hours of direct patient care for the specialty area in which certification is being sought.

*NOTE: For foot care verification, clinical hours must be completed under the supervision of a foot care expert (i.e. podiatrist, nurse practitioner or CFCN<sup>®</sup>).*

### **ELIGIBILITY PERIOD**

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Applications are processed on a rolling basis.

#### **INITIAL CANDIDATES:**

Once an application is approved, a Notice to Schedule (NTS) will be sent to you via email. At this time you will be able to schedule your exam session(s) during the next 12 months. You can only retake an exam 3 times within each 12 month period and must wait a minimum of 30 days between each testing attempt. At the end of 12 months if unsuccessful, you must reapply as an initial candidate to sit for future exams.

#### **RECERTIFYING CANDIDATES:**

Candidates will receive periodic email reminders about recertification beginning 18 months prior to the credential expiration date. To find your expiration date, either reference your official credential certificate or login to your account at: [www.castleworldwide.com/WOCNCB](http://www.castleworldwide.com/WOCNCB). Candidates may submit a Recertification Application up to 18 months prior to the credential expiration date and once the application is approved, a Notice to Schedule (NTS) will be sent. Testing eligibility begins the day the NTS is received for the next 365 days. Exams must be completed prior to credentials expiration. An exam can only be retaken 3 times within each 12 month period and Candidates must wait a minimum of 30 days between each testing attempt. If any attempts are unsuccessful or the credentials lapse, reapplication as an initial candidate must be completed.

### **STATUS OF YOUR APPLICATION**

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Allow sufficient time for application review (up to 30 days, depending on eligibility pathway). Candidates are encouraged to submit applications and supplemental materials as early as possible to allow for any unanticipated delays.

Application status can be checked online at any time by logging in to your account at [www.castleworldwide.com/WOCNCB](http://www.castleworldwide.com/WOCNCB), or by calling CASTLE at 919-572-6880 for the status.

## EXAMINATION AND PGP FEES

Examination fees may be paid online with credit card or by mail via credit card, check or money order payable to Castle Worldwide in USD. DO NOT SUBMIT CASH.

All fees must be submitted with the application.

1 Specialty	\$395 USD
2 Specialties	\$510 USD
3 Specialties	\$610 USD
4 Specialties	\$670 USD

This fee schedule applies to all certification and recertification pathways:

by examination or Professional Growth Program, or combination of specialty examinations (i.e., wound, ostomy, continence, or foot care certification).

Returned checks and credit card transactions that are declined will be subject to a \$50 handling fee. You must then send a certified check or money order for the amount due PLUS the \$50 USD handling fee to CASTLE.

For information on fees for the Wound Treatment Associate-Certified (WTA-C), refer to the WTA-C Handbook.

## FIRST RETAKE EXAM FEES

Candidates failing their first exam attempt may submit a retake application for their next attempt with a \$100.00 discount. This discount is limited to one (1) use and subsequent retake applications will use the full exam fee schedule listed above.

## SURCHARGE FEES (ONLY APPLIES TO EXAMINATIONS)

Candidates who have applied for more than one specialty examination can choose to schedule exams in a single testing period or multiple testing periods (see below).

- One examination (single 2-hour testing period)
- Two examinations (single 4-hour testing period)
- Three examinations (single 6-hour testing period)
- Four examinations (single 8-hour testing period)

Candidates who choose to schedule multiple testing periods will be charged a one-time surcharge fee of \$75.00.

A notification of the surcharge fee will occur during the scheduling process when a candidate selects multiple testing periods for more than one specialty exam in which they are eligible. The payment of the fee must be made at that time. The candidate will have the opportunity to change scheduling prior to payment submission and the surcharge will not occur.

EXAMPLE			
Eligible For	Single testing periods	Multiple testing periods	Surcharge
W, O, C	Three exam period (6 hour)		\$ 0
W, O, C		One exam period (2 hour) One exam period (2 hour) One exam period (2 hour)	\$75
W, O, C		Two exam period (4 hour) One exam period (2 hour)	\$75
W, O	Two exam period (4 hour)		\$ 0
W, O		One exam period (2 hour) One exam period (2 hour)	\$75

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Review the Examination Handbook prior to completing the application. Failure to follow the instructions can lead to the denial of an application. **For questions regarding the application process, please contact CASTLE Worldwide, Inc. at 919-572-6880 or [ibt@castleworldwide.com](mailto:ibt@castleworldwide.com)**

### APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- 1. Complete the online application ([www.castleworldwide.com/WOCNCB](http://www.castleworldwide.com/WOCNCB)®). Only online applications will be accepted.**  
You must apply under the name that appears on your government-issued photo identification card. Please include maiden name if it is needed to confirm experience or training requirements. Provide complete information including all ZIP/postal codes, telephone numbers, and email addresses in order to expedite processing.  
  
In order to receive important electronic correspondence regarding certification, please ensure that your email program will accept emails from [ibt@castleworldwide.com](mailto:ibt@castleworldwide.com).
- 2. Proof of current RN license**  
Upload or submit a copy of the license, showing expiration date and state(s).
- 3. Proof of Education**  
Upload or submit a copy of the required diploma or transcripts for the specialty level exam, according to the eligibility outlined on pages 5-7.
- 4. If applying via Traditional Pathway, proof of successful completion of a WOC (ET) Program**  
Enter the education program codes that are outlined in the handbook on page 16 (WOC Codes).  
Upload or submit a copy of the certificate of completion or diploma.
- 5. If applying via Experiential Pathway, proof of continuing education credits for each specialty exam.**  
Complete the Continuing Education Verification Form (online).  
For each specialty exam, upload or submit copies of CME/CE certificates, all earned in the past 5 years and **post-bachelor's degree**.
- 6. If applying via Experiential Pathway, verification from your supervisor of clinical hours for each specialty exam.**  
Complete Specialty Clinical Experience online (Step 8).  
Agree to the electronic attestation of clinical hours worked.
- 7. Include documentation of special disability if requesting special testing accommodations.**
- 8. Include examination fee.**  
Submit examination fee by secure online payment or make check payable to CASTLE Worldwide in USD.

## EXAMINATION PROCESS

### SCHEDULING A TESTING SESSION

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Upon approval of your application, CASTLE will send notification of eligibility to sit for the examination(s) and will provide a username, password, and directions on how to schedule a testing session. If you are eligible for more than one examination, you may schedule a single testing session for all examinations for which you are eligible, or you may schedule a separate testing session for each examination. Testing sessions are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, based on test center availability. At most computer-based testing locations, morning examinations begin at 9:00 a.m., and afternoon examinations begin at 1:00 p.m.

1. Schedule online. Visit CASTLE's website at [www.castleworldwide.com/WOCNCB](http://www.castleworldwide.com/WOCNCB).

—OR—

2. Call CASTLE at 919-572-6880 to schedule a testing session.

When scheduling your examination, you will be asked the date, time and location you prefer. Allow ample time prior to credential expiration to schedule your exam(s) for preferred dates and test centers and to ensure date and site availability. We recommend applying at least 90 days prior to credentials expiration.

**IMPORTANT:** Be sure your scheduled exam is a date you can commit to. There is a \$50 re-scheduling fee if you must change this exam date. See "Rescheduling a Testing Session" on page 12 for more information.

### TESTING CENTERS

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CASTLE's computer-based testing network consists of more than 450 domestic (U.S. and Canada) test centers and over 200 international testing centers. For a list of testing centers visit: [www.castleworldwide.com/mainsite/ibtsites/default.aspx](http://www.castleworldwide.com/mainsite/ibtsites/default.aspx).

You may schedule up to four exams in one day or on separate days, as long as all days are within the eligibility period for which you applied.

#### SCHEDULING OUTSIDE OF THE US AND CANADA FOR INTERNET BASED TESTING (IBT)

When you receive your Notice to Schedule (NTS) via email from CASTLE, you will have the option of taking the IBT examination outside of the U.S. and Canada. Please note that there is an additional fee of \$150 per testing session (up to two examinations per session) for international test sites. This additional fee will be collected by secure e-commerce when you submit your scheduling request.

*PLEASE NOTE: CASTLE cannot guarantee the availability of testing sessions at specific international locations, and the international testing locations are subject to change. CASTLE will make every effort to accommodate your request wherever possible.*

### SPECIAL ADA ACCOMMODATION REQUEST

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Reasonable accommodations provide candidates with disabilities a fair and equal opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skill in the essential functions being measured by the examination. Reasonable accommodations are decided based upon the individual's specific request, disability, documentation submitted and appropriateness of the request. Reasonable accommodations do not include steps that fundamentally alter the purpose or nature of the examination.

Reasonable accommodations generally are provided for candidates who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits that person in one or more major life activities (e.g., walking, talking, hearing and performing manual tasks); have a record of such physical or mental impairment; or are regarded as having a physical or mental impairment.

To apply for reasonable accommodations, the candidate must submit documentation provided by an appropriate licensed professional on the professional's letterhead. The documentation must include a diagnosis of the disability and specific recommendations for accommodations and must be submitted with your exam application.

## RESCHEDULING A TESTING SESSION

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If a candidate needs to cancel or reschedule the testing session, the request must be submitted through CASTLE's online scheduling system **at least four (4) business days** prior to the test date. A \$50 rescheduling fee will apply.

Day of Testing Appointment:	Must reschedule/cancel by:
Monday	Tuesday (of the previous week)
Tuesday	Wednesday (of the previous week)
Wednesday	Thursday (of the previous week)
Thursday	Friday (of the previous week)
Friday	Monday (of the current week)
Saturday	Tuesday (of the current week)

**If the candidate does not appear for the testing session and has not cancelled or rescheduled at least four (4) business days prior to the scheduled test date, the testing fee will be forfeited. Candidates will be required to complete a Retake Application and pay an additional testing fee.**

Exceptions to this policy will be made only for substantiated emergencies. Emergencies should be directed to [ibt@castleworldwide.com](mailto:ibt@castleworldwide.com). If a computer is not accessible, please call CASTLE directly at 919-572-6880.

## EXAMINATION RULES

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CASTLE follows industry standard testing rules as outlined below:

- Candidates will be notified of the exact test location, date, and time. Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the testing session. Those who arrive late will not be permitted to test.
- Candidates must bring photo identification with signature to the examination site. Acceptable forms of identification are driver's licenses, passports and government-issued identification cards **only**.
- Each examination consists of 120 multiple-choice questions. Candidates will be permitted 120 minutes to complete each examination.
- Prohibited Items: Candidates are expressly prohibited from bringing the following items to the test site:
  - cameras, cell phones, optical readers or other electronic devices that include the ability to photograph, photocopy or otherwise copy test materials
  - notes, books, dictionaries or language dictionaries
  - book bags, purses, handbags or luggage
  - Ipods, MP3 players, headphones or pagers
  - calculators (except as expressly permitted by the test sponsor), computers, PDAs or other electronic devices with one or more memories
  - personal writing utensils (i.e., pencils, pens and highlighters)
  - watches
  - food and beverage
  - hats, hoods or other headgear
  - coats and jackets

Please note that sweaters and sweatshirts without pockets or hoods are permitted.

If it is determined that a candidate has brought any such items to the test site, they may be requested and held by CASTLE testing staff. CASTLE reserves the right to review the memory of any electronic device to determine whether any test materials have been photographed or otherwise copied. If the review determines that any test materials are in the memory of any such device, CASTLE reserves the right to delete such materials or retain them for subsequent disciplinary action. Upon completion of the review and any applicable deletions, CASTLE will return the device, but will not be responsible for the deletion of any materials that may result from the review, whether or not such materials are test materials. By bringing any such device into the test site in violation of CASTLE policies, the candidate expressly waives any confidentiality or other similar rights with respect to the device, the review of the memory of the device and/or the deletion of any materials. CASTLE, the examination site, and the test administration staff are not liable for lost or damaged items brought to the examination site.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DISTRACTIONS:** Every attempt, within reason, is made to ensure a quiet and comfortable testing environment for all candidates. However, last minute needs and emergencies by building operators cannot be anticipated. It is suggested that candidates wear appropriate clothing to help adapt to a cooler or warmer climate in the examination room. Examination room temperature can be unpredictable. Bring ear plugs to muffle noise distractions.

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## EXAMINATION RESULTS

### SCORE REPORTS

WOCNCB uses a scaled scoring method for reporting your examination results. Results are printed and given to you immediately at the test site. In addition, candidates may view their score results by logging in through the online credentialing system at [www.castleworldwide.com/wocncb](http://www.castleworldwide.com/wocncb). Scores will not be released by telephone or fax. Please contact Castle Worldwide immediately if you do not receive the printed results after your exam (1-919-572-6880).

### WHAT ARE SCALED SCORES?

Scaled scores are raw scores transformed by a numerical procedure. By using scaled scores, certification agencies make sure that they can provide reports to candidates that are consistent and without concern for test security or confusion about the scores.

For every possible raw score on a test form, there is a corresponding scaled score. When multiple forms of a test are used, or when results are compared from year to year, scaled scores are needed to adjust for possible differences in test form length or difficulty.

This transformation is similar to converting from pounds to kilograms. The weight of the object has not changed; only the units being reported have changed.

### WHY ARE SCALED SCORES USED?

Scaled scores provide a consistent scale of measurement so that the same scaled score represents the same level of knowledge from one test administration to the next. Testing programs often use multiple test forms to limit exposure of test questions. While the different forms are built to the same test specifications and are designed to be similar in difficulty, rarely are they exactly equal in the level of difficulty. If two candidates take different forms of different levels of difficulty but get the same number of questions correct, the candidate with the more difficult form demonstrated a higher level of knowledge. A scaled score ensures comparability in reporting across test forms.

### DO SCALED SCORES CHANGE WHO PASSES OR FAILS?

Scaled scores do NOT affect individual candidate pass or fail decisions. The decision is always made by comparing the number of items answered correctly to the number of items required to pass the test form that was established using the criterion-referenced process.

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## CERTIFICATES / WALLET CARDS

After passing the examination(s), candidates will receive a personalized certificate suitable for framing and a wallet card. Certificates are issued the month following your last completed exam, once you have taken all the specialties you applied for.

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## EXAMINATION RETAKES

If a candidate does not pass the examination, he or she may apply to retake the examination following a 30-day waiting period from his or her last testing attempt. Candidates must complete a Retake Application and pay applicable fees. Your retake application is accessed from your initial application, by logging into the online account and selecting "Retake." You do not need to re-establish eligibility or begin a new application. The application may be accessed at [www.castleworldwide.com/WOCNCB/](http://www.castleworldwide.com/WOCNCB/). If a candidate has not successfully completed the examination after three attempts, he or she will be required to submit a new application and supporting documentation following a six-month waiting period, during which additional study and training are recommended.

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## PREPARATION FOR THE EXAMINATION

### DEMO TEST

CASTLE offers a free online tutorial and demo test to familiarize candidates with the computer-based testing environment. The online demo and tutorial are accessible at any time through any computer with Internet access. Candidates may access the tutorial and demo on CASTLE's web site [www.castleworldwide.com](http://www.castleworldwide.com).



## PRACTICE TEST

The WOCNCB®'s Self Assessment Exam (SAE), which simulates the actual testing experience, is available on CASTLE's web site at <https://castleworldwide.com/castleweb/candidates/purchase-test/purchase-practice-test.aspx>. The SAE includes multiple-choice questions that reflect the content areas, level of difficulty and format of the actual certification examination. The SAE is accessible at any time through any computer with Internet access. There is a nominal fee for the practice test, which must be paid by credit card (MasterCard or Visa) through secure e-commerce.

## POLICIES

### CONFIDENTIALITY

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Information about candidates and their examination results are considered confidential. Studies and reports concerning candidates will contain no information identifiable with any candidate, unless authorized by the candidate.

### PRIVACY POLICY

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The Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB) has created this privacy statement ("Policy") in order to demonstrate its firm commitment to the privacy and the confidentiality of its certificants. It explains how we collect, use, and share the information you provide to us or we gather from you.

#### COLLECTING PERSONAL INFORMATION

Certification records shall be retained by the WOCNCB via electronic database. Records are password protected by many layers on the computer network: Windows sign-in id and password, database sign-in id and password, as well as firewall and virus protections on the network. These passwords are further protected by requiring periodic changes by the user.

WOCNCB contracts with a professional testing company to process exam applications, create and administer exams, and maintain data on candidate certification status. WOCNCB will maintain records of all passing candidates to reflect their certification data (e.g. contact information, demographics, credential type(s), certification issue dates and expiration dates, certification ID number, candidate testing ID number).

WOCNCB certification data is downloaded from the testing company on a monthly basis via a secured server operating system and then transferred into the secured database. The database has a pre-determined outline of the data fields, so that data is placed in the appropriate field.

Example of a database record:

Jane Doe, RN BSN CWOCN  
350 Main Street  
Anytown, WI 53000  
E-mail: jane.doe@gmail.net  
Phone: (414) 123-4567  
Certified Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nurse (CWOCN)  
Earned: 7/15/2005 valid through September 30, 2010  
Certification Number: 2005000000

Updates are made to mailing address, email address, credentials, and certification and recertification dates on a monthly basis when the data is transferred into WOCNCB's secured database. Old information is stored in each activity record for historical purposes showing date changed and previous data. If a certificant contacts WOCNCB by mail, email, fax, or phone, staff may access the database to make immediate updates.

Candidates' personal information shall be protected by all parties involved. At the conclusion of the review of any documents containing personal identifying information, the materials will be permanently destroyed (i.e. shredded or deleted). WOCNCB staff, reviewers, committee and Board members must further sign and adhere to the confidentiality policies stated in the WOCNCB Policy Manual.

Verification of certification credentials and expiration dates is available online to the public at [www.WOCNCB.org](http://www.WOCNCB.org) with all other information being held private (such as contact and demographic information). Each certificant gives permission to allow the public viewing of their records via signature on the exam application.

Our website uses forms for customers to order products and make donations. We collect user's contact information (e.g. name, mailing address, and email address) and financial information (e.g. credit card numbers). Financial information is used to bill the user for products/donations. Contact information is used to send orders and contact the user regarding any problems with the order. Individuals who are not WOCNCB certificants will not receive promotional emails from WOCNCB.

Credit card information obtained for purposes of application processing, ordering products, or making donations is not stored with the certificant record. WOCNCB staff retain this information separately for internal processing only. WOCNCB is compliant with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS) and does not store the entire credit card number for any period of time. The following information shows in plain (unencrypted) format (which is PCI-DSS compliant):

- The card type (AMEX, MC, VISA)
- The last four digits of the card number
- The expiration date

The rest of the credit card number, as well as the credit card validation code, are never stored in any form.

### **USE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

The specific responsibilities of the WOCNCB and staff are listed below.

#### **WOCNCB**

The WOCNCB has access to your contact information as a part of its oversight responsibilities. These duties include:

- Oversight of activities of the WOCNCB staff
- Communicating with certificants and committees on issues and coming events
- Reporting on WOCNCB activities, goals and achievements
- Developing strategic and tactical direction for the WOCNCB

As part of its reporting, WOCNCB aggregates and de-identifies certain information about our certificants, for example, to calculate the number of applications submitted or the number of active certifications during a specific time period.

#### **WOCNCB Staff**

The WOCNCB's staff uses this information to maintain records on certificant status, and to provide all current certificants with standard Board communications. These include:

- WOCNCB e-mail notices (i.e., e-Newsletters, updates)
- WOCNCB recertification notices and information
- WOCNCB elections ballot notices
- Online web site access support

Certificants may unsubscribe from these emails by emailing [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org). WOCNCB does not share or sell its mailing or email lists of certificants.

#### **Web Site Access**

Certificant-only use of the WOCNCB website, if applicable, will be accessed with an email address and a password created by the certificant. WOCNCB staff do not have access to that password.

#### **Security**

This website has security measures in place to protect against the loss, misuse and alteration of the information under our control. The site is audited on a periodic basis to attempt to keep it up to date with security best practices, and protective measures are implemented on the site hosts. Certificant information is not stored on the web server.

**Corrections & Updates**

Individuals may contact us at any time to:

- Request access to information that we have about you.
- Correct any information that we have about you.
- Delete information we have about you.

These requests may be sent:

1. via email to: [info@wocncb.org](mailto:info@wocncb.org)
2. via mail to:  
WOCNCB  
555 E. Wells Street, Suite 1100  
Milwaukee, WI 53202
3. via fax to: 414-276-2146
4. via phone: 888-496-2622 or 414-289-8721

**Changes to this Policy**

The WOCNCB may amend this Policy from time to time. If we make any substantial changes to the way we use certificants' Personal Information we will notify them by e-mail and a prominent notification on our website.

**Enforcement**

If you have any questions about this privacy statement, the practices of this website, or your dealings with it, or have a concern that these privacy provisions are being violated in some way, please contact the WOCNCB.

**LAPSED CREDENTIALS**

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Refer to Eligibility Requirements on page 8 for those with lapsed credentials.

**REFUNDS**

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A written explanation of extenuating circumstances must be submitted for refund consideration by the WOCNCB®. All refund requests must be submitted to the WOCNCB® office via email at [info@WOCNCB.org](mailto:info@WOCNCB.org).

The following rules apply:

**ELIGIBLE REFUND REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION (MUST BE IN WRITING)**

- Applicants who do not meet eligibility requirements
- Applications not completed within 90 days of submission
- Applicants who do not schedule an examination within the designated eligibility period
- Applicants withdrawing from an examination

If a refund is granted, the refund amount will be the original fee paid.

If a refund is granted, a complete application, examination fee and documentation of eligibility are required to reapply for examination.

**INELIGIBLE REFUND REQUESTS**

- Applicants who are more than 15 minutes late to the scheduled examination
- Applicants who fail to appear for an examination on the scheduled date and did not cancel or reschedule at least 5 days in advance
- Applicants who fail to have proper identification at the examination site
- Applicants who violate examination rules and are dismissed from the Examination Center by the proctor

## CREDENTIAL EXTENSIONS

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Applicants currently certified by the WOCNCB® may request an extension of their credentials for the following reasons only.

The following rules apply:

- Must request the extension prior to expiration of current certification
- Must be seriously ill (or member of immediate family seriously ill), suffer from personal illness or injury, experience unavoidable natural disaster, or be in active military duty outside the United States. Documentation may be requested
- Must request the extension in writing to the WOCNCB® office by emailing [info@WOCNCB.org](mailto:info@WOCNCB.org)
- It is recommended you submit requests at least 2 weeks prior to credentials expiration to allow time for an approval.

Once the extension request is received, it will be reviewed by the Credentialing and Review Committee, whereby a vote will determine if the candidate's credentials will be approved for extension.

If the extension is granted, it is for a maximum of six months only. No more than one extension request will be granted per candidate per five years.

## REVOCAION OF CERTIFICATION

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The WOCNCB® will revoke certification for any reason deemed appropriate including, but not limited to, the following:

- Falsification of the certification application or application materials.
- Falsification of any information requested by the WOCNCB®.
- Knowingly assisting another person or persons in obtaining or attempting to obtain certification or recertification by fraud.
- Misrepresentation of certification status.
- Illegal use of the certification certificate or falsification of credentials. This would include any lapse in professional license during the five-year period and any appearance of revocation, including those due to any misdemeanor or felony charges.
- Cheating (or reasonable evidence of intent to cheat) on the examination.
- Unauthorized possession or distribution of official WOCNCB® testing or examination materials.

The WOCNCB® provides an appeal mechanism for challenging revocation of certification. It is the responsibility of the former certificant to initiate this process. The complete process may be found on the WOCNCB® website at [www.WOCNCB.org](http://www.WOCNCB.org) by searching "Credentialing Review and Appeals." Written appeals should be forwarded to the WOCNCB® at the address listed on the website or the back cover of this handbook.

## APPEALS POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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An appeal policy and procedure is available to any Applicant or Certificant who has applied for WOCNCB® certification/recertification and wishes to contest any adverse decision affecting his/her certification/recertification status or eligibility. Any individual who does not file a request for an appeal within the required time limit shall waive the right to appeal.

1. Review of Eligibility Decisions. In the event of a determination that an individual has been denied certification or recertification, based on a failure to satisfy application or eligibility requirements, pay fees required by WOCNCB®, a change in certification status, or failure of the examination, the individual shall have thirty (30) days to file a written request for review.
2. Appeals process. The individual may file a written appeal request to the WOCNCB® office within thirty (30) days of the date of their receipt of the determination in the above instances. Once the request is received, it will be reviewed by the Credentialing and Review and Appeals Committee whereby, a vote will take place to determine if the eligibility decision will be upheld or reversed. If the eligibility decision is reversed, the Credentialing and Review and Appeals Committee will determine the terms and issue a decision in writing, on the request.

## COPYRIGHTED EXAM QUESTIONS

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All examination questions are the copyrighted property of the WOCNCB®. It is forbidden under federal copyright law to copy, reproduce, record, distribute or display these examination questions by any means, in whole or in part, without written permission. Doing so will subject you to severe civil and criminal penalties.

## WOUND, OSTOMY, OR CONTINENCE EXAMINATIONS

### CODES FOR WOC(ET) NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

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Below is a listing of the WOC(ET) Nursing Education Programs currently accredited by WOCN® Society. If you are applying through the Traditional Pathway, you must specify on your application the appropriate code for the WOCN® accredited school from which you graduated.

EDUCATION PROGRAM	CODE
Cleveland Clinic WOC(ET) Education – Cleveland, OH	
Traditional . . . . .	119
Split-option . . . . .	219
Emory University – Atlanta, GA	
Traditional . . . . .	121
Split-option . . . . .	221
Distance Learning . . . . .	321
Rutgers University, Camden, NJ	
Traditional . . . . .	157
University of Washington Education Program	
Wound Management – Traditional . . . . .	123
The Valley Foundation School of Nursing, Wound and Ostomy Education Program, San Jose State University . . . . .	172
WCET Accredited International Program . . . . .	200
webWOC Nursing Education Program	
Distance Learning . . . . .	324
Discontinued Programs . . . . .	199

If you have graduated from a recently accredited school, please call the WOCNCB® for the code.

## EXAMINATION CONTENT

To begin your preparation in an informed and organized manner, each candidate should know what to expect from the actual examination in terms of the content. Information regarding the content of the examination is presented in this Examination Handbook. The content outline will give you a general impression of the examination, and with closer inspection, can give specific study direction by revealing the relative importance given to each category on the examination.

The content for the examination is directly linked to a job analysis, a research study that involved sending surveys to practicing wound, ostomy, and continence nurses. An advisory committee of subject matter experts appointed by WOCNCB® reviewed a summary of the responses of hundreds of nurses. The committee determined the content of the examination by evaluating the practice activities judged by the respondents to be a part of practice and significant enough to warrant inclusion in the examination. The Content Outline indicates the content categories relevant to each of the performance areas and the number of questions for each category. Complexity levels for questions are also assigned as recall, application and analysis:

**Recall:** The ability to recall or recognize specific information is required.

**Application:** The ability to comprehend, relate or apply knowledge to new or changing situations is required.

**Analysis:** The ability to analyze and synthesize information, determine solutions or to evaluate the usefulness of a solution is required.

The entire examination consists of approximately 25 percent *recall* questions, 61 percent *application* questions and 14 percent *analysis* questions.

**Disclaimer:** WOCNCB embraces the latest evidence based practices in our specialty areas, incorporating such evidence into our testing. Exams are updated on a regular schedule. Exam development is a lengthy process, which ensures a quality product and adherence to best practices in testing. Candidates should be aware it is possible to see prior content while tests are updated.

## WOUND, OSTOMY, AND CONTINENCE NURSING CERTIFICATION BOARD (WOCNCB) CERTIFIED WOUND CARE NURSE (CWCN) CERTIFIED OSTOMY CARE NURSE (COCN) CERTIFIED CONTINENCE CARE NURSE (CCCN) DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE

DOMAIN I: WOUND CARE	Classification 010000	Items
<b>Task 1: Assess Comprehensive Factors Affecting Wound Care</b>	<b>010100</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Performing initial assessment (e.g., history and presentation, comorbidities, cultural diversity, age, medications, psychological issues)	010101	
b. Identifying etiologic factors (e.g., circulation, neuropathic, pressure, moisture, continence, cognition, chemical assault)	010102	
c. Interpreting nutritional status (e.g., lab values, diet history, BMI, appearance)	010103	
d. Interpreting pain using verbal and nonverbal tools	010104	
e. Evaluating wound and periwound characteristics (e.g., dimensions, drainage, odor, color, maceration, temperature, delayed wound healing)	010105	
f. Determining phase of wound healing through patient and wound assessment	010106	
g. Identifying and supporting patient and family goals (e.g., palliative, curative)	010107	
h. Educating the patient and family on the procedures, rationale, and significance of diagnostic test results	010108	
i. Identifying factors affecting care (e.g., patient and caregiver ability to learn and perform care, economic implications, education, family dynamics)	010109	
<b>Task 2: Implement Principles of Wound Management</b>	<b>010200</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Preventing complications of wound healing (e.g., infection, maceration, inappropriate product use)	010201	
b. Recommending appropriate pain management modalities	010202	
c. Recommending appropriate wound cleansing regimen	010203	

WOUND, OSTOMY, AND CONTINENCE NURSING CERTIFICATION BOARD (WOCNCB)  
 CERTIFIED WOUND CARE NURSE (CWCN) CERTIFIED OSTOMY CARE NURSE (COCN)  
 CERTIFIED CONTINENCE CARE NURSE (CCCN) DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE — CONTINUED

d. Identifying the need for wound culture (e.g., delayed wound healing, signs and symptoms of infection)	010204	
e. Differentiating the most appropriate method for wound culture (e.g., aspirate, Levine, punch biopsy)	010205	
f. Identifying indications and contraindications for debridement	010206	
g. Recommending the type of debridement (e.g., autolytic, chemical, mechanical, surgical, conservative sharp)	010207	
h. Identifying wounds that require chemical cauterization	010208	
i. Identifying the need for advanced modalities for wound cleansing and debridement (e.g., pulsed lavage, mist therapy, maggot therapy)	010209	
j. Recommending appropriate topical treatment to maintain periwound integrity	010210	
k. Recommending and applying dressings for moist wound healing (e.g., containment of drainage, eliminate dead space, reduce bioburden, control odor, debridement)	010211	
l. Identifying wounds appropriate for advanced wound therapy (e.g., leech therapy, bioengineered tissue, negative pressure wound therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy)	010212	
m. Educating patients and caregivers regarding wound healing (e.g., infection, tobacco cessation, nutrition, optimal health choices, causative factors)	010213	
n. Facilitating appropriate interdisciplinary consultations (e.g., surgical, pain clinic, orthotics, nutrition, social services, pastoral care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, mental health professional)	010214	
<b>Task 3: Assess and Manage Pressure Ulcers</b>	<b>010300</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Conducting and interpreting risk assessment (e.g., Braden Scale, Norton Scale)	010301	
b. Identifying wounds that are pressure related	010302	
c. Identifying pressure ulcer stage according to the current standard(s) (e.g., NPUAP, EPUAP)	010303	
d. Identifying the causative factor(s) (e.g., trauma, medical devices, immobility)	010304	
e. Evaluating the effectiveness of the current treatment plan	010305	
f. Recommending/Implementing interventions to manage wound and periwound	010306	
g. Implementing interventions based on risk assessment (e.g., moisture management, pressure redistribution, nutrition, cognition, mobility, offloading)	010307	
h. Educating patient and caregivers regarding condition specific content (e.g., nutrition, moisture management, repositioning)	010308	
i. Recommending appropriate consultations (e.g., physical therapist, occupational therapist, nutritional counselor, wound center, physician and non-physician provider)	010309	
<b>Task 4: Assess and Manage Lower Extremity Venous Disease</b>	<b>010400</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Identifying wound and periwound characteristics (e.g., edema, gaiter area, irregular borders, hemosiderin staining, copious exudate, stasis dermatitis, lipodermatosclerosis)	010401	
b. Differentiating wound etiology (e.g., venous insufficiency, lymphatic disease, atrophie blanche, arterial insufficiency, trauma, thrombus, mixed disease)	010402	
c. Conducting focused assessment (e.g., quality of pulses, capillary refill, appearance of skin, hair and nails, edema, protective sensation, proprioception)	010403	

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d. Recommending appropriate vascular studies (e.g., ankle-brachial index (ABI), transcutaneous oxygen pressure (TcPO <sub>2</sub> ), duplex scanning)	010404	
e. Recommending/implementing interventions to manage wound and periwound	010405	
f. Recommending compression therapy to manage edema (e.g., dynamic and static compression therapy)	010406	
g. Educating patient and caregivers regarding condition specific content (e.g., lifelong commitment to compression therapy, skin care, edema management, exercise)	010407	
h. Recommending appropriate consultations (e.g., certified compression fitter, nutrition counselor, wound center, lymphedema therapist, mental health professional, physician and non-physician provider)	010408	
<b>Task 5: Assess and Manage Lower Extremity Arterial Disease</b>	<b>010500</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Identifying wound and periwound characteristics (e.g., distal extremity, dependent rubor, “punched out” appearance, pale, dry wound bed, absence of hair, intermittent claudication)	010501	
b. Differentiating wound etiology (e.g., vasculitis, pressure, pyoderma gangrenosum, atrophie blanche, arterial insufficiency, trauma, thrombus, mixed disease)	010502	
c. Conducting focused assessment (e.g., quality of pulses, capillary refill, appearance of skin, elevational pallor, hair and nails, edema, protective sensation, proprioception)	010503	
d. Recommending appropriate vascular studies (e.g., ankle-brachial index (ABI), transcutaneous oxygen pressure (TcPO <sub>2</sub> ), duplex scanning, toe-brachial index (TBI))	010504	
e. Recommending/implementing interventions to manage wound and periwound	010505	
f. Recommending non-invasive and invasive interventions (e.g., pharmacological, walking program, surgical)	010506	
g. Educating patient and caregivers regarding condition specific content (e.g., tobacco cessation, trauma avoidance, positional risk factors)	010507	
h. Recommending appropriate consultations (e.g., vascular surgeon, nutrition counselor, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, mental health professional)	010508	
<b>Task 6: Assess and Manage Lower Extremity Neuropathic Disease</b>	<b>010600</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Identifying wound and periwound characteristics (e.g., callus, erythema, edema, varying amounts of exudate, location)	010601	
b. Differentiating wound etiology (e.g., pressure, arterial insufficiency, trauma, Hansen’s disease, Charcot disease, hammer toes, motor neuropathy, sensory neuropathy, autonomic neuropathy)	010602	
c. Conducting focused assessment (e.g., quality of pulses, capillary refill, appearance of skin, hair and nails, edema, protective sensation, proprioception)	010603	
d. Recommending appropriate studies (e.g., laboratory, radiography, toe-brachial index (TBI), ankle-brachial index (ABI), transcutaneous oxygen pressure (TcPO <sub>2</sub> ), duplex scanning)	010604	
e. Recommending/implementing interventions to manage wound and periwound (e.g., off-loading, orthotics, protective footwear, tight glucose control, callus reduction, total contact casting, hyperbaric oxygen therapy)	010605	
f. Educating patient and caregivers regarding condition specific content (e.g., tobacco cessation, regular foot care, trauma avoidance, tight glucose control)	010606	



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g. Recommending appropriate consultations (e.g., surgeon, podiatrist, podiatrist, endocrinologist, certified diabetes educator, nutritional counselor, wound center, mental health professional)	010607	
<b>Task 7: Assess and Manage Other Types of Wounds</b>	<b>010700</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Identifying wound and periwound characteristics (e.g., well approximated incision, poorly defined wound edges, necrosis, cellulitis, dermatitis, avascular changes, epibole)	010701	
b. Differentiating wound etiology (e.g., surgical, trauma, autoimmune, neoplastic, thermal injury, bacterial infection, fungal infection, viral infection, allergic reaction)	010702	
c. Conducting focused assessment (e.g., history and presentation)	010703	
d. Recommending appropriate studies (e.g., biopsy, laboratory, radiography, vascular)	010704	
e. Recommending/implementing interventions to manage wound and periwound (e.g., advanced wound care modalities)	010705	
f. Educating patient and caregivers regarding condition specific content (e.g., infection control, wound care, lifestyle changes, conformance to safety standards, treatment goals)	010706	
g. Recommending appropriate consultations (e.g., surgeon, infectious disease, dermatologist, nutritional counselor, wound center, mental health professional, palliative care)	010707	

<b>DOMAIN II: OSTOMY CARE</b>	<i>Classification</i> <i>020000</i>	<i>Items</i>
<b>Task 1: Assess Factors Affecting Fecal and Urinary Diversion</b>	<b>020100</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Evaluating pain and psychological adjustment using verbal and nonverbal tools	020101	
b. Performing initial assessment (e.g., history and presentation, comorbidities, cultural diversity, age, medications, psychological issues)	020102	
c. Identifying etiologic factors (e.g., cancer, genetic and physical anomalies, digestive disorders, autoimmune disease, trauma, necrotizing enterocolitis)	020103	
d. Evaluating stoma and peristomal skin (e.g., protrusion, location, mucocutaneous junction, color, os location, pouching surface alterations)	020104	
e. Identifying and supporting patient and family goals (e.g., palliative, curative, temporary, permanent)	020105	
f. Assessing the patients' and caregivers' ability to learn (e.g., preoperative needs, postoperative care, long term management, self-care)	020106	
g. Assessing optimal stoma location to accommodate patient needs (e.g., abdominal contours, clothing choices, pouching options, lifestyle, proposed surgery)	020107	
<b>Task 2: Implement Management Principles of Fecal and Urinary Diversion</b>	<b>020200</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Recommending optimal stoma location to accommodate patient needs (e.g., stoma site marking)	020201	
b. Implementing interventions based on stoma's appearance (e.g., necrosis, retraction, prolapse, ischemia, separation, strangulation)	020202	
c. Implementing interventions based on peristomal skin alteration (e.g., irritation/dermatitis, infection, herniation, ulceration)	020203	

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d. Implementing appropriate pouching system based on individual needs (e.g., abdominal contours, life style, physical limitations, effluent, odor control)	020204	
e. Providing ostomy management to specialty populations (e.g., obstetric, neonatal, pediatric, adolescent, bariatric, geriatric)	020205	
f. Educating patient and caregivers across the life span (e.g., activity, dietary needs, hydration, medications, pouching options, sexual counseling, ongoing support, age specific considerations)	020206	
g. Facilitating appropriate interdisciplinary consultations (e.g., surgical, pain clinic, nutrition, social services, pastoral care, physical therapy, occupational therapy, mental health professional, support groups)	020207	
<b>Task 3: Assess and Manage Colostomy</b>	<b>020300</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Differentiating the implications of colostomy types	020301	
b. Identifying management plan based on type of colostomy (e.g., irrigation, closed pouch, drainable pouch)	020302	
c. Preparing patient and caregivers regarding reversal of temporary colostomy (e.g., wound care, stooling pattern, diagnostic tests, procedure)	020303	
d. Educating patient and caregivers on management techniques (e.g., irrigation, dietary and fluid modification, pouching techniques, change frequency, skin care, distal segment of bowel)	020304	
<b>Task 4: Assess and Manage Ileostomy</b>	<b>020400</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Differentiating the implications of ileostomy types (e.g., permanent, temporary, staged procedure)	020401	
b. Identifying management plan based on type/amount of effluent (e.g., drainable pouch, high output, no effluent)	020402	
c. Managing peristomal complications (e.g., pseudoverrucous lesions, chemical dermatitis)	020403	
d. Preparing patient and caregivers regarding reversal of temporary ileostomy (e.g., wound care, stooling pattern, diagnostic tests, procedure)	020404	
e. Educating patient and caregivers on management techniques (e.g., complications, dietary and fluid modification, pouching techniques, change frequency, skin care, distal segment of bowel)	020405	
<b>Task 5: Assess and Manage Ileal Conduit</b>	<b>020500</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Identifying management plan (e.g., pouching options for day and night, mucous, stents, moisture wicking)	020501	
b. Managing peristomal complications (e.g., pseudoverrucous lesions, encrustations)	020502	
c. Collecting sterile urine specimen from ileal conduit	020503	
d. Educating patient and caregivers on management techniques (e.g., dietary and fluid modification, pouching techniques, change frequency, skin care, signs and symptoms of dehydration, infection)	020504	

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<b>Task 6: Assess and Manage Continent Fecal Diversions</b>	<b>020600</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Differentiating the implications of continent fecal diversion options (e.g., ileal pouch-anal anastomosis (IPAA), Koch pouch)	020601	
b. Identifying management plan (e.g., staged procedure, intubation, mucous discharge, lavage)	020602	
c. Managing complications (e.g., pouchitis, valve failure, obstruction, fistula, increased transit time)	020603	
d. Educating patient and caregivers on management techniques (e.g., dietary and fluid modification, stoma care, intubation schedule, stooling frequency, perianal skin care, signs and symptoms of dehydration, infection)	020604	
<b>Task 7: Assess and Manage Continent Urinary Diversions</b>	<b>020700</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Differentiating the implications of continent urinary diversion options (e.g., orthotopic neobladder, Indiana pouch)	020701	
b. Identifying management plan (e.g., catheter securement, irrigation, voiding schedule, clean intermittent catheterization)	020702	
c. Managing complications (e.g., pouchitis, valve failure, obstruction, fistula, increased transit time, dehydration, infection, spontaneous rupture)	020703	
d. Educating patient and caregivers on management techniques (e.g., dietary and fluid modification, stoma care, sexual counseling, skin care, pelvic floor muscle exercises, absorbent products)	020704	
<b>Task 8: Assess and Manage Fistulas</b>	<b>020800</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Differentiating type of fistula (e.g., colovaginal, enterocutaneous, vesicovaginal, acute, chronic)	020801	
b. Identifying etiologic factors of fistula development (e.g., radiation, infection, surgery, compromised patient)	020802	
c. Identifying management plan (e.g., containment devices, pouching techniques, skin care, negative pressure wound therapy)	020803	
d. Educating patient and caregivers on management techniques (e.g., dietary and fluid modification, stoma care, skin care, absorbent product, emotional support)	020804	
<b>Task 9: Assess and Manage Percutaneous Tubes and Drains</b>	<b>020900</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Differentiating type of percutaneous tubes and drains (e.g., gastrostomy, jejunostomy, nephrostomy, Jackson Pratt, Hemovac, Penrose)	020901	
b. Identifying management plan (e.g., stabilization, patency, skin care)	020902	
c. Managing complications (e.g., dislodgement, hypertrophic tissue, blockage, leakage)	020903	
d. Educating patient and caregivers on management techniques (e.g., irrigation, skin care, stabilization, patency)	020904	

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<b>DOMAIN III: CONTINENCE CARE</b>		<i>Classification 03000</i>	
<b>Task 1: Assess Principles of Continence</b>		<b>030100</b>	<b>18</b>
Skill in:			
a.	Performing initial history (e.g., presentation, bowel and bladder habits, medical-surgical, genitourinary, medications, psycho-social, sexuality, dietary habits, pain, smoking)	030101	
b.	Obtaining and interpreting diaries (e.g., elimination, intake, leakage)	030102	
c.	Performing physical assessment (e.g., abdomen, skin, urogenital, pelvic, neuromuscular, sphincter, post-void residual)	030103	
d.	Identifying factors affecting care (e.g., patient and caregiver ability to learn and perform care, economic implications, functional ability, environmental, caregiver support)	030104	
e.	Recommending appropriate diagnostic studies (e.g., urodynamics, post-void residual, radiography, endoscopy, laboratory)	030105	
<b>Task 2: Implement Management Principles for Urinary Incontinence</b>		<b>030200</b>	<b>18</b>
Skill in:			
a.	Differentiating types of incontinence (e.g., transient/reversible, reflex, stress, functional, urge, overflow, mixed, nocturnal enuresis)	030201	
b.	Identifying etiologies and contributing factors (e.g., dietary, retention, obstruction, functional impairment, neurological)	030202	
c.	Implementing management techniques (e.g., dietary, fluid, behavioral techniques, pelvic floor muscle exercises, environmental modifications, containment devices, absorbent products, intermittent catheterization, pharmacological)	030203	
d.	Managing incontinence complications (e.g., Incontinence Associated Dermatitis (IAD), infection)	030204	
e.	Educating patient and caregivers on healthy bladder and bowel habits (e.g., emptying maneuvers, skin care, dietary and fluid modification, pelvic floor muscle exercises, preventing urinary tract infection )	030205	
f.	Recommending appropriate consultations (e.g., mental health professional, physician and non-physician providers, support groups)	030206	
<b>Task 3: Assess and Manage Stress Incontinence</b>		<b>030300</b>	<b>14</b>
Skill in:			
a.	Identifying causative factors of stress incontinence (e.g., urethral hypermobility, chronic cough)	030301	
b.	Implementing management techniques (e.g., pelvic floor muscle exercises, “Knack”)	030302	
c.	Recommending appropriate consultations (e.g., devices, biofeedback, electrical stimulation, surgical intervention)	030303	
<b>Task 4: Assess and Manage Urge Incontinence</b>		<b>030400</b>	<b>14</b>
Skill in:			
a.	Identifying causative factors of urge incontinence (e.g., fluid intake, bladder irritants, dietary factors, overactive bladder, sensory)	030401	
b.	Implementing management techniques (e.g., urge inhibition, bladder training, dietary and fluid modification, pelvic floor muscle exercises)	030402	

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c. Recommending appropriate consultations (e.g., neuromodulation, biofeedback, pharmacological therapy)	030403	
<b>Task 5: Assess and Manage Functional Incontinence</b>	<b>030500</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Identifying causative factors of functional incontinence (e.g., physical limitations, cognitive deficits, environmental factors, clothing options)	030501	
b. Implementing management techniques (e.g., fluid intake, individualized scheduled toileting, prompted voiding, environmental modifications, containment options)	030502	
c. Recommending appropriate consultations (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy, social worker)	030503	
<b>Task 6: Assess and Manage Other Voiding Disorders</b>	<b>030600</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Identifying causative factors of other voiding disorders (e.g., transient/reversible, overflow, post-prostatectomy incontinence, mixed incontinence, nocturia, urgency/frequency without leakage)	030601	
b. Implementing an individualized plan of care based on assessment (e.g., double voiding, pelvic floor muscle exercises, dietary and fluid modification)	030602	
c. Implement management techniques for urinary retention (e.g., intermittent catheterization, indwelling catheters, prevention of infection, catheter complications)	030603	
<b>Task 7: Implement Management Principles for Bowel Dysfunction</b>	<b>030700</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Skill in:</b>		
a. Differentiating types of dysfunction (e.g., fecal impaction, diarrhea, constipation, incontinence, microbial)	030701	
b. Identifying etiologies and contributing factors (e.g., dietary, fluid, obstruction, psychological, functional impairment, neurological)	030702	
c. Recommending/Implementing management techniques (e.g., fluids, diet, exercise, pharmacological, behavioral techniques)	030703	
d. Managing incontinence complications (e.g., containment devices, absorbent products, Incontinence Associated Dermatitis [IAD])	030704	
e. Educating patient and caregivers on healthy bowel habits (e.g., bowel training, skin care, dietary and fluid modification)	030705	
f. Recommending appropriate consultations (e.g., mental health professional, physician and non-physician providers, support groups)	030706	

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS – WOUND, OSTOMY, AND CONTINENCE EXAMS

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These sample questions are representative of actual examination questions. Additional study questions are available in the WOCNCB® Self-Assessment Examinations (SAE) at [www.WOCNCB.org/become-certified/test-preparation/self-assessment.php](http://www.WOCNCB.org/become-certified/test-preparation/self-assessment.php). The SAE provides self assessment (or practice) to measure your professional knowledge and prepare you for the actual credentialing examination. The web-based SAEs give you instantaneous scoring and results, along with feedback and references on your answers.

1. The normal appearance of a wound on a patient with leukopenia 5 days following traumatic injury would most likely be
    - A. absence of inflammation.
    - B. hypertrophic scar formation.
    - C. intense erythema at the wound edges.
    - D. excessive granulation tissue in the wound bed.
  2. The most important intervention in the management of chronic venous insufficiency is
    - A. compression.
    - B. revascularization.
    - C. antibiotic therapy.
    - D. wound debridement.
  3. If a patient has full-thickness breakdown on both trochanters and partial-thickness breakdown on the sacrum, which of the following would be MOST appropriate for pressure relief?
    - A. water mattress
    - B. low air-loss bed
    - C. static air mattress
    - D. high density convoluted foam mattress
  4. What is the usual frequency of intubation 6 months following continent ileostomy surgery?
    - A. once daily
    - B. every 2 hours
    - C. 3 to 4 times in 24 hours
    - D. 8 to 10 times in 24 hours
  5. Which of the following is an appropriate behavioral objective for a patient with a new ileal conduit prior to discharge from the hospital?
    - A. Empty pouch.
    - B. Increase intake of orange juice.
    - C. Change appliance without assistance.
    - D. Rinse pouch once a week with vinegar and water.
  6. Which of the following patients requires immediate referral for further work-up?
    - A. a patient with stress incontinence, no residual volume, and no evidence of urinary tract infection
    - B. a patient with reflex incontinence, 50% residual volume, and symptoms of urinary tract infection
    - C. a patient with urge incontinence, low residual volumes, negative urinalysis, and frequency and urgency
    - D. a patient with constant incontinence related to vesicovaginal fistula
  7. The treatment of choice for reflex incontinence and bladder-sphincter dyssynergia is
    - A. bladder retraining.
    - B. indwelling catheter.
    - C. sympathomimetic drugs.
    - D. intermittent catheterization with anticholinergics.
-

**ANSWER KEY**

Question	Correct Answer	Content Category	Complexity Level
1.	A	1E (10105)	Application
2.	A	4F (10406)	Recall
3.	B	3E (10305)	Analysis
4.	C	4A (20401)	Recall
5.	A	5A (20501)	Recall
6.	B	1E (30105)	Application
7.	D	2C (30203)	Application

## FOOT CARE EXAMINATION

CFCN®

### EXAMINATION CONTENT – FOOT CARE EXAM

To begin your preparation in an informed and organized manner, you should know what to expect from the actual examination in terms of the content. Information regarding the content of the examination is presented in this examination handbook. The Content Outline will give you a general impression of the examination, and with closer inspection, can give you specific study direction by revealing the relative importance given to each category on the examination.

The content for the examination is directly linked to a job analysis completed in 2014. The job analysis involved development of a survey, distribution of that survey to practitioners and an analysis of the responses. Test specifications for the Certified Foot Care Nurse were developed on the basis of these data.

The Content Outline indicates the content categories relevant to each of the performance areas and the number of questions for each category. Complexity levels for questions are also assigned as recall, application and analysis:

**Recall:** The ability to recall or recognize specific information is required.

**Application:** The ability to comprehend, relate or apply knowledge to new or changing situations is required.

**Analysis:** The ability to analyze and synthesize information, determine solutions or to evaluate the usefulness of a solution is required.

The entire examination consists of approximately 24 percent *recall* questions, 57 percent *application* questions and 19 percent *analysis* questions. Note: Only generic drug names will be used in the examination.

**Disclaimer:** WOCNCB embraces the latest evidence based practices in our specialty areas, incorporating such evidence into our testing. Exams are updated on a regular schedule. Exam development is a lengthy process, which ensures a quality product and adherence to best practices in testing. Candidates should be aware it is possible to see prior content while tests are updated.

DOMAIN I: ASSESSMENT AND CARE PLANNING	Classification Code	# of Items
	<b>010000</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Task 1: Obtain focused patient health history (e.g., current medications, co-morbidities, health habits) through interviews, established medical records, and questionnaires in order to determine the patient's current health and risk status.</b>	<b>010100</b>	<b>10</b>
Knowledge of:		
a. Medications	010101	
b. Diseases affecting the lower extremities (musculoskeletal, endocrine, neurological, vascular, integumentary, etc.)	010102	
c. Health behaviors affecting lower extremities (smoking, diet, obesity, activity level, etc.)	010103	
Skill in:		
d. Active listening	010104	
<b>Task 2: Perform focused lower extremity physical assessments in order to determine current physical (e.g., vascular, neurological, skin integrity, musculoskeletal) and mental status.</b>	<b>010200</b>	<b>11</b>
Knowledge of:		
a. Methods for mental health assessment	010201	
b. Methods for pain assessment	010202	
c. Pain types (neuropathic, musculoskeletal, ischemic, etc.)	010203	
d. Anatomy and physiology of the lower extremities (foot, nails, bone structure, etc.)	010204	
e. Functional disabilities (gait, mobility, balance, visual, cognitive)	010205	
f. Factors reflecting vascular status (temperature, hair growth patterns, pulses, blanching, capillary refill, dependent rubor, pallor, edema)	010206	
g. Indicators of compromised skin integrity (fissures, ulcers, corns, calluses, dermatitis)	010207	



## DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE – FOOT CARE EXAM — CONTINUED

h. Physical/musculoskeletal function of the foot (range of motion, deformities, strength)	010208	
i. Neurological status of the lower extremities (sensory, motor, autonomic)	010209	
<b>Skill in:</b>		
j. Palpating pulses (dorsalis pedis, posterior tibialis)	010210	
k. Using a Doppler	010211	
l. Determining ankle brachial index (ABI)	010212	
m. Performing monofilament, vibratory, and proprioception tests	010213	
<b>Task 3: Develop an initial patient-centered plan of care using health history and physical assessment information to meet established foot care goals.</b>	<b>010300</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Knowledge of:</b>		
a. Principles of patient-centered care	010301	
b. Normal and abnormal physical assessment results	010302	
c. Appropriate interventions (education, treatments, referrals)	010303	
d. Cultural and ethnic differences affecting foot health	010304	
<b>Skill in:</b>		
e. Interpreting patient assessment results	010305	
f. Setting appropriate goals based on identified patient needs	010306	
g. Planning interventions based on patient needs and goals	010307	
<b>Task 4: Perform ongoing evaluation and modification of the patient-centered plan.</b>	<b>010400</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Knowledge of:</b>		
a. Principles of patient-centered care	010401	
b. Anticipated responses to current interventions	010402	
c. Appropriate modifications based on responses to interventions	010403	
<b>Skill in:</b>		
d. Interpreting patient responses to interventions	010404	
e. Modifying goals based on patient response	010405	
f. Modifying interventions based on revised patient needs and goals	010406	

	<i>Classification Code</i>	<i># of Items</i>
<b>DOMAIN II: INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT</b>	<b>020000</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Task 1: Perform skin care on feet and lower extremities using appropriate skin care products in order to promote optimal skin health and integrity.</b>	<b>020100</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Knowledge of:</b>		
a. Integumentary system	020101	
b. Skin cleansing principles	020102	
c. Skin moisturizers (humectants, emollients)	020103	
d. Barrier products (dimethicone, petrolatum, zinc-based products, etc.)	020104	
e. Topical medications	020105	
<b>Skill in:</b>		
f. Selecting and applying appropriate skin care products (cleansers, moisturizers, medications)	020106	

DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE – FOOT CARE EXAM — CONTINUED

<b>Task 2: Recommend treatment and/or provide care for dermatological conditions affecting the feet and lower extremities using appropriate skin care products in order to promote optimal skin health and integrity.</b>	<b>020200</b>	<b>10</b>
Knowledge of:		
a. Integumentary system	020201	
b. Signs/symptoms of skin impairments/abnormalities (blisters, hyperkeratotic lesions, stasis dermatitis, fissures, verucca vulgaris, trauma, tinea pedis, paronychia, maceration, hemosiderosis, etc.)	020202	
c. Skin cleansing principles	020203	
d. Skin moisturizers (humectants, emollients)	020204	
e. Barrier products (dimethicone, petrolatum, zinc-based products, etc.)	020205	
f. Topical medications	020206	
Skill in:		
g. Management of hyperkeratotic lesions	020207	
h. Applying skin care products (cleansers, moisturizers, medications)	020208	
<b>Task 3: Implement offloading interventions utilizing offloading products in order to promote optimal skin health and integrity and prevent further injury (e.g., ulceration, callous formation, deep tissue injury).</b>	<b>020300</b>	<b>10</b>
Knowledge of:		
a. Appropriate footwear (shoes, socks, hosiery, inserts)	020301	
b. Offloading principles to reduce and/or redistribute pressure, friction, and/or shear	020302	
c. Offloading and padding products (orthotics, lamb's wool, moleskin, felt padding, silicone products, etc.)	020303	
Skill in:		
d. Applying offloading and padding products appropriately	020304	
e. Identifying areas of high pressure (wear patterns, pressure mapping, etc.)	020305	
<b>Task 4: Perform nail care and debridement using appropriate instruments in order to promote comfort and optimize function.</b>	<b>020400</b>	<b>12</b>
Knowledge of:		
a. Nail anatomy	020401	
b. Onychopathology (onychomycosis, onychocryptosis, paronychia, etc.)	020402	
c. Personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines	020403	
d. Debridement techniques	020404	
e. Instrument sterilization guidelines (cold sterilization, autoclave, etc.)	020405	
Skill in:		
f. Identifying free nail border (nail debris)	020406	
g. Appropriately selecting and using equipment (rotary powered instrument, nippers, etc.) for nail care and debridement	020407	
<b>Task 5: Identify lower extremity wounds (i.e., venous, arterial, neuropathic, traumatic, and pressure ulcers) and make wound care treatment recommendations and/or referrals that support the goals of care.</b>	<b>020500</b>	<b>11</b>
Knowledge of:		
a. Characteristics of wound types (venous, arterial, neuropathic, traumatic, pressure ulcers)	020501	
b. National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP) pressure ulcer staging system	020502	

## DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE – FOOT CARE EXAM — CONTINUED

c. Wagner grading system for diabetic foot ulcers	020503	
d. Principles of moist wound healing	020504	
e. Principles of basic wound care	020505	
f. Appropriate topical treatment to maintain periwound integrity	020506	
g. Dressings for moist wound healing (containment of drainage, eliminate dead space, reduce bioburden, control odor, debridement, etc.)	020507	
h. Compression therapy (indications and contraindications)	020508	
i. Advanced wound therapy (electrical stimulation, bioengineered tissue, negative pressure wound therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy)	020509	
<b>Skill in:</b>		
j. Selecting and applying dressings	020510	
k. Educating patients and caregivers regarding wound healing (infection, tobacco cessation, nutrition, optimal health choices, causative factors, etc.)	020511	

<b>DOMAIN III: EDUCATION AND REFERRAL</b>	<b>030000</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Task 1: Instruct patients and caregivers on foot care principles (e.g., hygiene, footwear, daily foot inspections) and disease, lifestyle, and/or age-related processes to prevent complications, maintain optimal foot health, and encourage patient autonomy.</b>	<b>030100</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Knowledge of:</b>		
a. Preventive skin care strategies	030101	
b. Disease processes and conditions affecting feet and lower extremities (arterial disease, venous disease, neurological disease, diabetes, autoimmune, arthritis, trauma, etc.)	030102	
c. Age-related processes affecting feet and lower extremities	030103	
d. Health habits affecting feet and lower extremities (activity level, exercise, obesity, diet, smoking, etc.)	030104	
<b>Skill in:</b>		
e. Assessing patient health literacy (learning style, readiness to learn, barriers to learning, current understanding, etc.)	030105	
<b>Task 2: Collaborate with interdisciplinary healthcare professionals and make appropriate referrals to support patient centered goals of care.</b>	<b>030200</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Knowledge of:</b>		
a. Available healthcare-related resources	030201	
b. Roles and responsibilities of specialized healthcare providers (vascular specialist/surgeon, endocrinologist, podiatrist, orthopedic surgeon, dermatologist, pedorthist/orthotist, pain management specialist, diabetic educator, wound care specialist, etc.)	030202	
c. Health care delivery systems	030203	
<b>Skill in:</b>		
d. Communicating with members of the interdisciplinary team	030204	
e. Navigating health care systems (identifying and accessing programs for specific lower extremity disease processes)	030205	

## SAMPLE QUESTIONS – FOOT CARE EXAM

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These sample questions are representative of actual examination questions.

1. A patient with heel spurs would MOST likely complain of
    - A. severe pain in the bottom of the foot.
    - B. itching on the heels.
    - C. swelling in the heels.
    - D. moderate pain throughout the foot.
  
  2. Assessment of a patient's toenails reveals brittle and massive thickening. These are MOST likely symptoms of
    - A. decreased circulation.
    - B. fungal infection.
    - C. dorsal nail plate trauma.
    - D. tinea pedis.
  
  3. Which of the following skin conditions can be prevented by community education in the proper use of communal washing facilities?
    - A. tinea pedis
    - B. skin maceration
    - C. scabies
    - D. plantar warts
- 

### ANSWER KEY

Question	Correct Answer	Content Category	Complexity Level
1.	A	1B8	Recall
2.	B	1B10	Application
3.	A	2A8d	Application

## EXAMINATION CONTENT

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To begin your preparation in an informed and organized manner, each candidate should know what to expect from the actual examination in terms of the content. Information regarding the content of the examination is presented in this Examination Handbook. The content outline will give you a general impression of the examination, and with closer inspection, can give specific study direction by revealing the relative importance given to each category on the examination.

The content for the examination is directly linked to a job analysis, a research study that involved sending surveys to practicing wound, ostomy, and continence nurses. An advisory committee of subject matter experts appointed by WOCNCB® reviewed a summary of the responses of hundreds of nurses. The committee determined the content of the examination by evaluating the practice activities judged by the respondents to be a part of practice and significant enough to warrant inclusion in the examination. The Content Outline indicates the content categories relevant to each of the performance areas and the number of questions for each category. Complexity levels for questions are also assigned as recall, application and analysis:

**Disclaimer:** WOCNCB embraces the latest evidence based practices in our specialty areas, incorporating such evidence into our testing. Exams are updated on a regular schedule. Exam development is a lengthy process, which ensures a quality product and adherence to best practices in testing. Candidates should be aware it is possible to see prior content while tests are updated.

**Recall:** The ability to recall or recognize specific information is required.

**Application:** The ability to comprehend, relate or apply knowledge to new or changing situations is required.

**Analysis:** The ability to analyze and synthesize information, determine solutions or to evaluate the usefulness of a solution is required.

### DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE — ADVANCED PRACTICE (AP) – WOUND CARE

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#### WOUND CARE (80)

1. Comprehensive Assessment (19)
  - A. Collect the following information related to patient and family history:
    1. Chief complaint
    2. History of present illness
    3. Pain
    4. Past history
    5. Family history
    6. Social, personal, and developmental history
    7. Nutrition
    8. Allergies
    9. Medications
    10. Review of systems
  - B. Perform a problem-focused physical examination by:
    1. Assessing and interpreting wound characteristics
    2. Assessing for indications of infection
    3. Staging pressure ulcers
    4. Assessing pressure ulcers
    5. Assessing lower extremity ulcers (e.g., skin and toenails, sensorimotor status, pulses, and capillary refill)
    6. Assess for foot deformity (e.g., Charcot changes, hammer toes)
  - C. Recommend/order and interpret:
    1. Vascular studies
    2. Radiologic studies (e.g., x-ray, MRI, bone scan, ultrasound)
    3. Laboratory studies
    4. Culture and biopsy
  - D. Risk assessment and goals
    1. Conduct and interpret risk assessment
    2. Identify patient/family goals and factors affecting care
2. Diagnosis (15)
  - A. Differential diagnosis
    1. Determine differential diagnoses
  - B. Use assessment to determine a diagnosis related to altered skin integrity:
    1. Pressure ulcers
    2. Extremity ulcers (e.g., lymphedema, vascular insufficiency)
    3. Diabetic wounds
    4. Traumatic injury wounds
    5. Thermal injuries (e.g., burns, radiation)
    6. Atypical wounds
    7. Surgical wounds
    8. Autoimmune-related wounds
    9. Neoplastic wounds
    10. Allergic reactions
    11. Chemical trauma (e.g., incontinence-associated dermatitis)
    12. Mechanical trauma
    13. Skin infections (e.g., bacterial, fungal)
3. Planning (10)
  - A. Determine wound care management plans
  - B. Determine caregiver skills and access
  - C. Determine educational needs of patient and caregiver
  - D. Determine needed supplies and accessibility
  - E. Determine a plan for follow up care

## DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE — ADVANCED PRACTICE (AP) – WOUND CARE — CONTINUED

4. Implementation (18)
  - A. Health Teaching and Health Promotion
    1. Teach patient and/or caregiver about:
      - a. control of risk factors
      - b. care and prevention strategies (e.g., trauma, foot care)
    2. Provide anticipatory guidance for diagnostic or therapeutic interventions
  - B. Consultation and Coordination
    1. Provide consultation to other medical staff on wound care issues
    2. Coordinate clinical practice to meet patient needs
    3. Coordinate available program services
  - C. Therapeutic Intervention
    1. Recommend or prescribe:
      - a. medications
      - b. topical agents
      - c. cleansing procedures and solutions
      - d. measures to minimize risk of infection
      - e. hydrotherapy or pulsed lavage
      - f. autolytic debridement
      - g. enzymatic debridement (i.e., chemical)
      - h. mechanical debridement
      - i. surgical debridement
      - j. sharp instrument debridement
      - k. chemical cauterization
      - l. pressure, shear, and friction reduction modalities
      - m. hyperbaric oxygenation
      - n. growth factor treatment
      - o. negative pressure wound therapy
      - p. bioengineered tissue products
      - q. compression therapy (e.g., pumps, wraps, stockings)
    2. Recommend or prescribe modalities to:
      - a. eliminate dead space
      - b. reduce bacterial load
      - c. control odor
      - d. contain drainage and/or maintain moist wound surface
    3. Perform:
      - a. sharp instrument debridement
      - b. chemical cauterization
    4. Initiate pain control measures
    5. Manage the following systemic factors that affect wound healing:
      - a. perfusion
      - b. nutrition
      - c. glucose control
      - d. immune compromise (i.e., immunosuppression)
      - e. mobility
      - f. incontinence
      - g. other systemic factors
  - D. Referral
    1. Refer for medical/surgical interventions
    2. Refer patient for consultation with other disciplines
5. Evaluation (9)
  - A. Evaluate effectiveness of treatment (i.e., in relation to patient and provider goals)
  - B. Evaluate cost efficiency of treatment
  - C. Revise the plan of care based on evaluation
6. Evaluation (9)
  - A. Quality of Practice
    1. Participate on a quality/performance improvement (QPI) team
    2. Use QPI data to make decisions about practice
    3. Use QPI data to facilitate organizational policy and procedure changes
  - B. Education of the Health Care Team
    1. Identify learning needs
    2. Design educational programs colleagues
    3. Evaluate the effectiveness of education
  - C. Self Evaluation of Professional Practice
    1. Provide age appropriate care in a culturally and ethnically sensitive manner
    2. Engage in a formal process to seek feedback about practice
    3. Take action to achieve professional goals
  - D. Collaboration and Collegiality
    1. Collaborate with other members of the health care team
    2. Serve as a mentor
  - E. Ethics and Advocacy
    1. Serve as a resource to facilitate ethical decision making
    2. Support team decision making related to ethics
    3. Promote patients' autonomy, dignity, and rights
  - F. Research
    1. Use results from evidence-based literature to:
      - a. validate current wound care nursing practice
      - b. suggest changes to current wound care nursing practice
    2. Participate in clinical research activities (e.g., protocol development, subject selection, data collection, analysis, disseminate results)
  - G. Resource Utilization
    1. Evaluate resource options for efficient delivery of care
    2. Assist the patient in identifying and securing services
    3. Utilize community and organizational resources to enhance the plan of care
  - H. Leadership
    1. Promotes teamwork and healthy work environments within the organization
    2. Influence decision making bodies regarding wound care issues
    3. Promotes the advancement of the profession through participation in professional organizations

## DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE — ADVANCED PRACTICE (AP) – OSTOMY CARE — CONTINUED

### OSTOMY CARE (80)

1. Comprehensive Assessment (17)
  - A. Collect the following information related to patient and family history:
    1. Chief complaint
    2. History of present illness
    3. Pain
    4. Past history
    5. Family history
    6. Social, personal, and developmental history
    7. Nutrition
    8. Allergies
    9. Medications
    10. Review of systems
  - B. Perform a problem-focused physical examination by:
    1. Assessing stomal characteristics
    2. Assessing peristomal characteristics
    3. Assessing continent diversions/neobladder
    4. Assessing fistula characteristics (location; type, source, and volume of output)
    5. Assessing tubes and drains
    6. Assessing current products being utilized
  - C. Recommend/order and interpret:
    1. Radiologic studies
    2. Laboratory studies
    3. Culture and biopsy
  - D. Goals
    1. Identify patient/family goals and factors affecting care
2. Diagnosis (20)
  - A. Differential Diagnosis
    1. Determine differential diagnoses
  - B. Use assessment to determine a diagnosis related to peristomal complications
    1. Allergic dermatitis
    2. Irritant dermatitis
    3. Mechanical trauma
    4. Hernia
    5. Skin infections (e.g., bacterial, fungal)
    6. Pseudoverrucous lesions
    7. Mucosal transplantation
    8. Caput medusa
    9. Atypical complications (e.g. pyoderma gangrenosum, malignancy)
  - C. Use assessment to determine a diagnosis related to stomal complications
    1. Necrosis
    2. Bleeding
    3. Mucocutaneous separation
    4. Prolapse
    5. Retraction
    6. Stenosis
    7. Laceration
    8. Melanosis coli
  - D. Use assessment to determine a diagnosis related to continent urinary diversion complications
    1. Pouchitis
    2. Incontinence
    3. Urinary retention
    4. Urinary tract infections
  - E. Use assessment to determine a diagnosis related to continent fecal diversion complications
    1. Pouchitis
    2. Perianal/peristomal skin alteration
    3. Incontinence
  - F. Use assessment to determine a diagnosis related to fistulas
    1. Etiology
    2. Alteration in skin integrity
    3. Fluid and electrolyte imbalance
3. Planning (9)
  - A. Determine ostomy management plans
  - B. Determine caregiver skills and access
  - C. Determine educational needs of patient and caregiver
  - D. Determine needed supplies and accessibility
  - E. Determine a plan for follow up care
4. Implementation (16)
  - A. Health Teaching and Health Promotion
    1. Customize teaching based on developmental stage, readiness to learn, knowledge level, cultural background, and learning style.
    2. Provide patient education specific to medical diagnosis and surgical procedure
      - a. Medical diagnosis ( e.g. cancer, bowel or urinary dysfunction, genetic & congenital disease, necrotizing enterocolitis)
      - b. Surgical procedure (e.g. colostomy, ileostomy, urostomy, neobladder)
      - c. Pouching procedure (application, removal, emptying)
      - d. Irrigation (colon continence, mucus management)
      - e. Continent stoma intubation
      - f. Clean intermittent urethral catheterization
      - g. Tube management (e.g. irrigation, stabilization)
      - h. Management of retained distal segment of bowel
      - i. Dietary modifications (foods and fluids)
      - j. Changes in absorption of fluids, medications, and vitamins
      - k. Perianal skin care
      - l. Control of incontinence
      - m. Pelvic floor muscle exercises
      - n. Managing activities of daily living
      - o. Provide sexual counseling
      - p. Signs and symptoms requiring follow-up care (e.g. infection, pouchitis, stomal or peristomal complications, bleeding)

## DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE — ADVANCED PRACTICE (AP) – OSTOMY CARE — CONTINUED

- B. Consultation and Coordination
  - 1. Provide consultation to other medical staff on ostomy care issues
    - a. Stoma site marking
  - 2. Coordinate clinical practice to meet patient needs
  - 3. Coordinate available program services
- C. Therapeutic Intervention
  - 1. Recommend or prescribe
    - a. Medications
    - b. Non-prescriptive topical agents
    - c. Products
      - 1) Containment of urine, stool, fistula effluent
      - 2) Odor control
      - 3) Skin protection
    - d. Irrigation (intestine, internal pouch, rectal stump)
    - e. Fluid replacement
    - f. Chemical cauterization
    - g. Replace a gastrostomy tube in an established tract
    - h. Dilation
  - 2. Initiate pain control measures
- D. Referral
  - 1. Refer for medical/surgical interventions
  - 2. Refer patient for consultation with other disciplines
  - 3. Community and internet resources
- 5. Evaluation (9)
  - A. Evaluate effectiveness of treatment (i.e., in relation to patient and provider goals)
  - B. Evaluate cost efficiency of treatment
  - C. Revise the plan of care based on evaluation
- 6. Professional Issues (9)
  - A. Quality of Practice
    - 1. Participate on a quality/performance improvement (QPI) team
    - 2. Use QPI data to make decisions about practice
    - 3. Use QPI data to facilitate organizational policy and procedure changes
  - B. Education of the Health Care Team
    - 1. Identify learning needs
    - 2. Design educational programs
    - 3. Provide education to enhance professional growth of colleagues
    - 4. Evaluate the effectiveness of education
- C. Self Evaluation of Professional Practice
  - 1. Provide age appropriate care in a culturally and ethnically sensitive manner
  - 2. Engage in a formal process to seek feedback about practice
  - 3. Take action to achieve professional goals
- D. Collaboration and Collegiality
  - 1. Collaborate with other members of the health care team
  - 2. Serve as a mentor
- E. Ethics and Advocacy
  - 1. Serve as a resource to facilitate ethical decision making
  - 2. Support team decision making related to ethics
  - 3. Promote patients' autonomy, dignity, and rights
- F. Research
  - 1. Use results from evidence-based literature to:
    - a. validate current ostomy care nursing practice
    - b. suggest changes to current ostomy care nursing practice
  - 2. Participate in clinical research activities (e.g., protocol development, subject selection, data collection, analysis, disseminate results)
- G. Resource Utilization
  - 1. Evaluate resource options for efficient delivery of care
  - 2. Assist the patient in identifying and securing services
  - 3. Utilize community and organizational resources to enhance the plan of care
- H. Leadership
  - 1. Promotes teamwork and healthy work environments within the organization
  - 2. Influence decision making bodies regarding ostomy care issues
  - 3. Promotes the advancement of the profession through participation in professional organizations



## DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE — ADVANCED PRACTICE (AP) – CONTINENCE CARE

### CONTINENCE (80)

1. Comprehensive Assessment (18)
  - A. Collect the following information related to patient and family history:
    1. Chief complaint
    2. History of present illness
    3. Pain
    4. Past history
    5. Family history
    6. Social, personal, and developmental history
    7. Nutrition and fluid intake
    8. Allergies
    9. Medications
    10. Review of systems
  - B. Perform a problem-focused physical examination by:
    1. Assessing cognition
    2. Assessing functional status (e.g., environmental barriers, musculoskeletal [including ambulation], dexterity)
    3. Assessing abdomen
    4. Assessing skin
    5. Urogenital exam – external
    6. Pelvic exam (e.g., pelvic organ prolapse, pelvic muscle strength, infection)
    7. Rectal exam
    8. Neuromuscular testing (e.g., genital sensation, anal wink, bulbocavernosus reflex)
    9. External anal sphincter assessment
  - C. Recommend/prescribe/perform and interpret
    1. bladder and bowel diaries
    2. laboratory studies (e.g., PSA, LFT, CBC, chemistry)
    3. urine studies (e.g., urinalysis, microbiology, 24-hour creatinine clearance, cytology)
    4. post-void residual urine measurement (by catheter or bladder scan)
    5. urodynamics (e.g., cystometry, uroflowmetry, pressureflow, video)
    6. EMG studies
    7. radiologic procedures (e.g., KUB, voiding cystometrogram, renal ultrasound, renal scan, GI transit)
    8. urethral hypermobility testing (Q-tip during vaginal exam)
    9. provoked stress maneuvers (e.g., cough test, paper towel test)
    10. differentiation of urine from vaginal discharge
    11. differentiation of urethral vs. vesico-vaginal urine loss (e.g., pH, pattern, timing, amount, color)
  - D. Risk Assessment and Goals
    1. Conduct and interpret risk assessment for voiding and defecation dysfunction
    2. Identify patient/family goals and factors affecting care
2. Diagnosis (19)
  - A. Determine differential diagnoses
  - B. Use assessment and knowledge of pathophysiology to determine a diagnosis of:
    1. Urinary incontinence
      - a. Transient
      - b. Stress
      - c. Urge (e.g., OAB wet)
      - d. Mixed incontinence
      - e. Retention with overflow (e.g., BOO [anatomic or DSD], Detrusor hypocontractility)
      - f. Reflex
      - g. Nocturnal enuresis
      - h. Functional
      - i. Post-prostatectomy
    2. Other genito-urinary, lower GI dysfunction
      - a. Detrusor hyperactivity with impaired contractility
      - b. Neurogenic bladder with and without detrusor sphincter dyssynergia
      - c. Nocturia
      - d. Urgency/frequency without leakage
      - e. Bladder and pelvic pain syndromes
      - f. Pelvic relaxation syndromes (e.g., urethral/uterine/rectal prolapse, cystocele, rectocele)
    3. Bowel dysfunction
      - a. Constipation
      - b. Fecal impaction
      - c. Fecal incontinence
      - d. Diarrhea encopresis
    4. Incontinence associated dermatitis
    5. Bladder infections (e.g., simple, complex recurrent)
  - C. Manage situations that may warrant medical evaluation or consultation (e.g. high risk for / possibility of syndromes such as):
    1. Urinary calculi
    2. Pyelonephritis
    3. Pelvic organ prolapse
    4. Genito-urinary cancer
    5. Genito-urinary-gastrointestinal fistula
    6. Upper urinary tract damage related to lower urinary tract dysfunction
    7. Patient open to and condition possibly amenable to surgical intervention
    8. Prostatic enlargement
    9. Unexpected neurologic findings
  - D. Manage rehabilitation/cure potential
3. Planning (8)
  - A. Determine continence care management plans
  - B. Determine caregiver skills and access
  - C. Determine educational needs of patient and caregiver
  - D. Determine needed supplies and accessibility (e.g., containment and skin care products)
  - E. Determine a plan for follow-up care

## DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE — ADVANCED PRACTICE (AP) – CONTINENCE CARE — CONTINUED

4. Implementation (16)
  - A. Health Teaching and Health Promotion
    1. Teach patient to foster healthy bladder and bowel habits:
      - a. dietary and fluid management (including bladder irritants)
      - b. emptying maneuvers
      - c. bladder and bowel training program
      - d. skin care - topical treatment for prevention
  - B. Consultation and Coordination
    1. Provide consultation to other medical staff on voiding and defecation issues
    2. Coordinate clinical practice to meet patient needs
    3. Coordinate available program services
  - C. Therapeutic Intervention
    1. Recommend or prescribe and instruct on
      - a. medications (e.g., bladder relaxants, antibiotics, hormonal, bowel)
      - b. surgical evaluation
      - c. toileting programs (e.g., bladder training, scheduled toileting, prompted voiding)
      - d. containment products and devices
      - e. environmental modifications(e.g., bedside commode, urinal, clothing)
      - f. prevention strategies to maintain optimal bowel function
      - g. lifestyle modifications (e.g., diet, fluids, exercise)
      - h. measures to protect skin
    2. Recommend/prescribe/perform and instruct
      - a. pessary fitting and care
      - b. urgency suppression techniques (e.g., quick flicks, distraction)
      - c. catheterization (e.g., clean intermittent, indwelling)
      - d. suprapubic catheter care
      - e. the “Knack”
      - f. pelvic muscle rehabilitation including
        - (1) electrical stimulation
        - (2) biofeedback
    3. Instruct on self-care modalities for bowel dysfunction
      - a. prevention strategies to maintain optimal bowel function
      - b. lifestyle modifications (e.g., diet, fluids, exercise)
      - c. pharmacologic management of bowel dysfunction
      - d. pelvic muscle exercises
      - e. skin protection
      - f. bowel cleansing
      - g. sensory motor re-education (including biofeedback and manometer)
4. Manage the following systemic factors that affect continence:
  - a. Impaired glucose control
  - b. Impaired mobility
  - c. Neuromuscular diseases (e.g., MS, Parkinson’s, SCI)
  - d. Altered nutrition/absorption
  - e. Pain
5. Evaluation (10)
  - A. Evaluate effectiveness of treatment (i.e., in relation to patient and provider goals)
  - B. Evaluate cost efficiency of treatment
  - C. Revise the plan of care based on evaluation
6. Professional Issues (9)
  - A. Quality of Practice
    1. Participate on a quality/performance improvement (QPI) team
    2. Use QPI data to make decisions about practice
    3. Use QPI data to facilitate organizational policy and procedure changes
  - B. Education of the Health Care Team
    1. Identify learning needs
    2. Design educational programs
    3. Provide education to enhance professional growth of colleagues
    4. Evaluate the effectiveness of education
  - C. Self Evaluation of Professional Practice
    1. Provide age appropriate care in a culturally and ethnically sensitive manner
    2. Engage in a formal process to seek feedback about practice
    3. Take action to achieve professional goals
  - D. Collaboration and Collegiality
    1. Collaborate with other members of the health care team
    2. Serve as a mentor
  - E. Ethics and Advocacy
    1. Serve as a resource to facilitate ethical decision making
    2. Support team decision making related to ethics
    3. Promote patients’ autonomy, dignity, and rights
  - F. Research
    1. Use results from evidence-based literature to:
      - a. validate current continence care nursing practice
      - b. suggest changes to current continence care nursing practice
    2. Participate in clinical research activities (e.g., protocol development, subject selection, data collection, analysis, disseminate results)

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**DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE — ADVANCED PRACTICE (AP) – CONTINENCE CARE — CONTINUED**

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- G. Resource Utilization
  1. Evaluate resource options for efficient delivery of care
  2. Assist the patient in identifying and securing services
  3. Utilize community and organizational resources to enhance the plan of care
- H. Leadership
  1. Promotes teamwork and healthy work environments within the organization
  2. Influence decision making bodies regarding continence care issues
  3. Promotes the advancement of the profession through participation in professional organizations

## AP EXAM SAMPLE QUESTIONS<sup>1</sup>

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1. Which of the following vascular tests is the best choice to order when determining the location of the occlusion for surgical intervention?
  - A. Segmental limb pressure
  - B. Pulse volume recording
  - C. Doppler waveform studies
  - D. Skin perfusion pressure
  
2. Which medication, when prescribed for a patient with excessive ileostomy output requires thyroid function tests at baseline and periodically throughout treatment?
  - A. Loperamide
  - B. Diphenoxylate/atropine
  - C. Cholestyramine
  - D. Octreotide acetate
  
3. A 65-year old female reports recent, intermittent, postvoid fullness and difficulty starting her urinary stream. She underwent a mid-urethral sling procedure 2 years ago with no reported voiding problems after surgery. The APN should suspect which condition?
  - A. Cystocele beyond the hymenal ring
  - B. Rectocele at the hymenal ring
  - C. Sling erosion
  - D. Sling infection

<sup>1</sup>Thompson, Donna L.; Gallagher, Diana L. Getting Ready for Certification. WOCNCB® Certification: Entry-Level and AP-Level Examinations: Higher Expectations for Higher Level of Recognition. *J. Wound, Ostomy & Continence Nursing*. 2012;39(3):328–330. Used with Permission.

### ANSWER KEY

Question	Correct Answer	Content Category	Complexity Level
1.	A.	1C Task 3	Recall
2.	D.	4C Task 3.1a	Application
3.	A.	2B Task 2.2f	Analysis





## NOTES

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