

## LLE<sup>sm</sup> certification



Lower extremity lymphedema, edema, and wound management are specialized areas of health care that focus on overall skin care and promotion of an optimal wound environment through reduction of edema and lymphedema. This therapeutic approach includes intensive rehabilitative interventions followed by education in self-care measures to prevent disease progression.

The Lymphedema Lower Extremity (LLE) certification program offers an advanced credential that demonstrates a candidate's proficiency and mastery of essential knowledge and skills in lower extremity lymphedema management.

LLE certification is designed and intended solely for healthcare professionals who currently hold a wound care certification from a nationally accredited program.

The LLE provides lymphedema and edema care to patients in acute, outpatient, long-term care, and home care settings. The certified clinician plays an important role as a direct care provider, educator, and resource for optimal patient outcomes in lymphedema and edema management associated with wounds. The LLE scope of practice is performed in accordance with legislation code as determined by each respective professional state regulatory board.

Accelerate your career advancement opportunities by pursuing the LLE certification.



**Learn more about NAWC's LLE certification program.**



**View our education partner's (Lymphedema & Wound Care Education) LLE education course.**

## LINC<sup>TM</sup> initiative



LINC stands for "Leadership Initiative Networking Coalition." Within the structure of the initiative, there are three sections of special interest where clinicians certified in wound care (WCC), diabetic wound care (DWC), and lymphedema lower extremity management (LLE) collaborate on strategies to:

- elevate the status and awareness of the WCC, DWC, and LLE credentials
- provide the tools to help peers advance their careers
- develop guidelines to help WCCs, DWCs, and LLEs conduct research
- create education and networking venues for members.

Participation in LINC provides an avenue for "giving back" to your fellow NAWC members *and* you'll get credit toward your recertification in return for your active participation.

The LINC initiative is composed of three active sections:

- credential development
- geographic engagement
- research.

### Credential development

This section, led by Cynthia Tyner, RN, WCC, has been auditing and making recommendations about the various marketing tools currently in use by NAWC as well as those used by other wound care organizations.



Members of this section have already sent feedback to NAWC and continue to look at ways to enhance the public persona of NAWC credentials.

### Geographic engagement

This section is led by Denise Stetter, PT, WCC. Members are actively working together to engage NAWC membership in different geographic locations. So far, they have hosted Meet 'N Greet receptions for WCC candidates and local NAWC members at Wound Care Education Institute (WCEI) course locations in Indianapolis in March and another in Jeffersonville, Indiana, in May. Local area NAWC members are invited, along with WCEI students and instructor at each location.

Additionally, Missy Moore, LPN, WCC and NAWC Board Member, held an annual 1-day educational conference on behalf of NAWC in conjunction with the DC Board of Nursing in Washington, DC in May. She hosted more than 200 nurses and other healthcare professionals. The program was free and was open to all area wound care professionals. Both Denise Stetter, LINC leader for the Geographic Engagement section, and Debbie Hecker, Executive Director of NAWC, were on hand. Denise was a presenter, along with Gail Hebert, RN, WCC, CWCN. Gail is currently a clinical instructor at WCEI.



Any active WCC, DWC, or LLE is welcome to participate in a LINC initiative special interest section. Each section helps NAWC certificants.

### Research

The LINC Research section is headed by Shirley Drake, BSN, RN, BA, PHN, WCC, CCRN, DAPWCA. This section's goal is to provide tools to the research novice, and it started by delivering education on how to identify problems and conduct research to solve them. On June 6, Shirley, along with John Kampschmidt, CWS, FACCWS, FNP-C, and Kerry Risco, PhD, CRNP, NP-C, WCC, presented a webinar to NAWC members entitled "The Journey from Ideas to Poster Presentation," which dealt with how to conduct basic research. With this webinar under their belts, these LINC Research section leaders are ready to move on, working on research projects with the entire LINC Research section.

Any active WCC, DWC, or LLE is welcome to participate in a LINC initiative special interest section. If you are interested, please contact Debbie Hecker at [edirector@nawccb.org](mailto:edirector@nawccb.org) or by telephone at 877-922-6292, ext. 704 to learn how you can get involved.

## Accreditation Updates



### Accredited WCC® Certification Program

The process of once again updating our WCC Certification Examination began in the spring of 2011, when a new Job Task Analysis was conducted to identify all the tasks and levels of difficulty involved in performing the WCC job description. Once completed, an online survey was conducted to assign ratings of importance and difficulty to the various tasks. The output of this analysis and survey provided NAWC with a new test blueprint.

The WCC Certification Committee held a 2-day workshop in Rosemont, Illinois, in March of this year. The meeting was led by Susan Davis-Becker, PhD, of Alpine Testing Corporation.

The purpose of the meeting was to align items from the old test blueprint to the new blueprint and develop content appropriate to the new blueprint. Committee members were given assignments to work independently, writing and revising test items in ItemMetrics, our online item bank.



After enough items are written and re-fined, each will be beta tested to ensure it meets testing standards before becoming part of the exam. Two new WCC Certification Exam forms will be launched early next year.

The National Commission for Certifying Agencies requires that all accredited certification programs send an annual report each June 1st. Rest assured, our NAWC staff worked diligently extracting exam data and crunching numbers in order to comply with the deadline.

Additionally, the WCC credential is up for full reaccreditation in 2013. NAWC again engaged SeaCrest Consulting Company to assist in this process. We expect to begin working with them this fall.

### DWC® Certification Program



NAWC is taking the new DWC credential through the same rigorous accreditation process as described above for the WCC beginning this summer. We began by recruiting DWCs from around the country to volunteer their time and expertise toward this goal. The inaugural meeting of the DWC Certification Committee was held July 23-25 in Rosemont, Illinois. There's still time to put your name in the hat to become a DWC Certification Committee member. If you have expertise in diabetes or wound care and are DWC certified, we would like to hear from you. Contact Debbie Hecker, Executive Director, at [edirector@nawccb.org](mailto:edirector@nawccb.org) or by telephone at 877-922-6292, ext 704. We can promise you a learning experience you will find very valuable to your career, as well as some nice perks such as free recertification for your DWC credential.