

NAWC® introduces new credential in ostomy management



Each year, more than 120,000 Americans receive stoma surgery that creates a possible life-long ostomy. Further, it's estimated that between 500,000 and 800,000 men, women, and children live with an ostomy every day. It's a goal of the National Alliance of Wound Care (NAWC) to meet the growing need for more certified experts in ostomy management by introducing a new certification program in the specialty of ostomy management. The credential, Ostomy Management Specialistsm (OMS), is the fourth wound care-related certification available from NAWC.

"The Ostomy Management Specialist certification program is a huge milestone for us as we can now offer this professional credential not only to our 13,000 wound care certificants, but also to the entire healthcare community," stated NAWC Executive Director, Debbie Hecker, MBA, RN, WCC, DWC. "By expanding our offerings, we are truly leading the wound care industry in this new century. Physicians, therapists, and all nurses can now obtain the tested competency and recognition as specialists in Ostomy Management in order to help their patients and advance their careers."

NAWC introduced this new credential at the annual Wild on Wounds (WOW) Conference in Las Vegas this September as part of NAWC's 10th anniversary celebration.

NAWC asks that we remember the date—October 6, 2012—World Ostomy Day & Ostomy Awareness Day.



Click here for more information about the Ostomy Management Specialist Certification Program.



Click here to download the OMS Candidate Handbook.



Click here for information about the NAWC-approved course in ostomy management.

Will my WCC credential help me find a better job?

This question is asked of us on a daily basis as clinicians inquire about wound care certification through NAWC. The answer is YES!

Your wound care certification makes you much more marketable to employers and the demand for wound care professionals is growing FAST! NAWC can help you in promoting your wound care credential to hiring employers throughout the country.

Wound Care CareersTM is the exclusive online job board from your WCC member association, NAWC. It has now been expanded to increase other available positions because of our partnership with the National Healthcare Career Network (NHCN). By partnering with NHCN, we can feature wound care positions from over 185,000 potential employers at over 200 nonprofit healthcare associations, facilities, and related organizations.

Wound Care Careers is attracting new employers each month and we want to build that momentum by attracting even more new employers to post more jobs so more WCC clinicians can advance their careers.

Employers look at the number of job seekers on a job board as a gauge to see if



they should invest in posting their ad on a specific job board. The more job seekers, the more likely employers are to post an ad. You can help yourself and your fellow WCC clinicians by registering as a job seeker on Wound Care Careers. Registration is FREE and your information is kept anonymous.

You can receive daily e-mails when new jobs are posted that match your search criteria and you can even post one or more résumés anonymously to attract employers who are interested in your skills and experience. Take advantage of such tools as how to write a résumé, receive assistance in social networking and developing online profiles, and discover career tips on successful annual performance reviews. You can even develop an audio message to potential employers to clearly set you apart from the crowd!

You worked hard for your WCC certification with the idea of advancing your career, so take advantage of this free service from NAWC to help yourself and possibly others. New jobs are posted every week!

 [Click here to go to Wound Care Careers.](#)

WCC® Outstanding Achievement and Scholarship Award winners



The 6th annual WCC Outstanding Achievement and Scholarship Award winners were announced during the opening general session of this year's WOW Conference. These prestigious awards are given annually to three deserving wound care certified (WCC) clinicians from across the country and one individual aspiring to become wound care certified. Each award category recognizes one WCC clinician for his or her contributions in the field of skin and



Julie Lientz, BSN, RN, WCC, CWON



Sandra Leamer-Newhouse, RN, WCC



Monessa (Missy) Wadford, BSN, RN, WCC



Melinda Kofmehl, RN

wound management.

The NAWC nominating committee wants to extend a special thanks to all the nominators for their work and dedication in presenting such compelling award candidates. On behalf of all WCC clinicians, congratulations to the following winners:

- Outstanding Research In Wound Care: Julie Lientz, BSN, RN, WCC, CWON
- Outstanding Work In Diabetic Wounds: Sandra Leamer-Newhouse, RN, WCC
- Outstanding WCC of the Year: Monessa (Missy) Wadford, BSN, RN, WCC
- WCC Scholarship: Melinda Kofmehl, RN

WCC® recertification: A critical step in your professional development



As the largest and fastest-growing wound care certification, the WCC now

represents more than 13,000 certificants. This means that more professionals are certified as WCC clinicians than as any other wound care credential in the United States. In real numbers, this represents an amazing growth of nearly 2,000 new WCC clinicians each year. As a result of this incredible growth, we are experiencing large numbers of WCC clinicians who must recertify each year. Recertification is an easy, yet necessary process to ensure you maintain your WCC credential.

NAWC requires recertification every 5 years to ensure that you as a WCC clinician are exposed to new clinical advancements and standards of care within the area of skin and wound management. Recertification is a means of providing ongoing assessment of continued competence and professional growth. This assures patients that all clinicians awarded the WCC credential have kept abreast of any new developments and have maintained active continuing education and practice activities to strengthen their knowledge in the area of skin and wound management.

Recertification deadlines

All WCC credentials expire on the last day of the month, 5 years after initial certification. Expiration dates are located on your WCC certificate. You will begin to receive recertification correspondence from NAWC just prior to the beginning of your last year of certification. Applications for recertification are accepted no earlier than 6 months prior to your expiration date and no later than the postmark of your expiration date. If you have questions about WCC recertification, we would be happy to assist you. Contact

the NAWC office toll free at 877-922-6292 and select option 3.

Pathways to recertification

NAWC offers four pathways to WCC recertification. Applicants for recertification of the WCC credential must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Active unrestricted license as a registered nurse, licensed practical/vocational nurse, nurse practitioner, physical therapist, physical therapy assistant, occupational therapist, or physician or physician assistant
2. Current WCC credential (not lapsed)
3. Payment of required fees
4. Submission of recertification application for one of the following recertification options:
 - a. Examination
 - b. Training (live instruction or online). Submit directly to Wound Care Education Institute (WCEI) (www.wcei.net)
 - c. Continuing Education (60 contact hours)
 - d. Continuing Education (30 contact hours) and Outreach Program (CEOP)

Upon successful completion of the recertification process, current WCC clinicians in good standing may continue to use the initials "WCC" to designate their status. Credentials are awarded for a 5-year period. Upon expiration of the credentialing term, WCC clinicians are required to recertify with NAWC to maintain their credentials.



Click here to download the WCC Recertification Handbook.



Click here to view the Training Pathway option from WCEI.