

## Why I became a certified DWC®

I obtained Diabetic Wound Certification (DWC) in February 2014. In addition to WCC® and OMS certifications that I currently hold, I felt this was an important next step in advancing my knowledge of wound care and treatment options.

Diabetes is becoming more prevalent. Currently, 246 million people in the world have diabetes, and by 2030, it is expected that 438 million will have the disease. Of Americans, 8.3% have diabetes and 27% do not even know they have the disease.

As the number of patients with diabetes increases, so does the number of patients with diabetes-related wounds. One in every six people in the United States who has diabetes will develop a wound, and a staggering 85% of those will go on to require amputation. Of those amputations, the vast majority could have been prevented with proper wound care and treatment.

The numbers are eye opening, and the drain on the healthcare system and insurance industry is great. Having a chronic nonhealing diabetic wound is life altering for a patient and his or her family. Prevention of the wound is best and includes proper education on diet, pressure relief, checking feet daily, weight management, maintaining a healthy blood glucose level, regular checkups with the appropriate care provider, and shoes custom-molded to the patient's irregularly shaped foot. If a wound should develop, knowledge of how to best treat this wound is paramount in preventing an amputation and lifelong disability. In summary, diabetic lesions require specialized care.

As healthcare professionals with a passion for healing, we are responsible for knowing the latest information. Not only are we edu-

cating patients and families but on many occasions we are also educating physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners who order wound care. Substandard care still happens too often and is not acceptable.

I encourage everyone who has the privilege of being a certified wound care clinician to consider the DWC program. You will gain valuable knowledge in the prevention and care of diabetic wounds, and will be an asset to your patients, coworkers, community, and the wound care world. You will also have the backing and strength of the National Alliance of Wound Care and Ostomy. I am proud to represent them.

— Janie Hollenbach, RN, WCC, OMS,  
DWC, DAPWCA, FACCWS,  
Wound and Ostomy Nurse Consultant,  
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## NAWCO Certifications



### WCC® Wound Care Certified

When considering wound care certification, choose the credential that aligns best with your lifestyle. The WCC certification is the number one wound care credential in the United States. There are thousands of multi-discipline WCC clinicians making a difference in the lives of their patients and improving the quality of wound care every day.

The WCC clinician provides direct patient wound and skin care in acute-care, long-term care, and home-care settings. The WCC clinician plays an important role as a direct care provider, educator, and resource for optimum

patient outcomes in wound and skin care management. The WCC clinician's scope of practice is performed in accordance with scope of practice as determined by each respective professional state regulatory board.

[Learn more here<sup>A</sup>.](#)



### DWC<sup>®</sup> Diabetic Wound Certified

The role of the DWC clinician is based upon expert evidence-based clinical knowledge and skills that are practiced in acute-care, outpatient, long-term care, and home-care settings. The focus of the DWC clinician is on high-quality care to achieve optimum patient outcomes and cost control in diabetic wound management and prevention of complications. To ensure appropriate and thorough diabetic wound management, a holistic comprehensive approach is used. All factors affecting healing, including consideration of systemic, psychosocial, and local factors, are reviewed. [Learn more here<sup>B</sup>.](#)



### LLE<sup>®</sup> Lymphedema Lower Extremity

Lymphedema lower-extremity, edema, and wound management is a specialized area that focuses 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.

Lymphedema lower-extremity and edema management requires the skills of the inter-

disciplinary team, which includes the physician, nurse, LLE-certified clinician, dietitian, physical therapist, occupational therapist, social worker, and other healthcare disciplines or providers depending on each patient assessment. [Learn more here<sup>C</sup>.](#)



### OMS Ostomy Management Specialist

The National Alliance of Wound Care and Ostomy is proud to offer the first multidisciplinary Ostomy Management Specialist (OMS) certification in the United States. We believe our thousands of WCCs and other certificants who work with ostomy patients or are considering ostomy as a career direction will greatly benefit from the new OMS program. The role of the OMS clinician is based on expert, evidence-based clinical knowledge and skills that are practiced in acute-care, outpatient, long-term care, and home-care settings.

The focus of the OMS clinician is on high-quality care to achieve optimum patient outcomes and cost control in ostomy management and prevention of complications. To ensure appropriate and thorough ostomy management, a holistic comprehensive approach is used. All factors affecting healing, including considerations of systemic, psychosocial, and local factors, are reviewed. [Learn more here<sup>D</sup>.](#) ■

### Online Resources

- A. <http://www.nawccb.org/library/documents/Handbooks/CandidateHandbook%201.25.10-FINALPRINTER.pdf>
- B. <http://www.nawccb.org/library/documents/Handbooks/DWC%20handbook%20MAIN%202012.pdf>
- C. <http://www.nawccb.org/library/documents/Handbooks/LLE%20Candidate%20handbook.pdf>
- D. <http://www.nawccb.org/library/documents/Handbooks/OMS%20Candidate%20handbook.pdf>