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WOCNCB®

Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board

Wound Treatment Associate – Certified (WTA-C)

Exam Handbook

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WOCNCB® Examination Handbook

Wound Treatment Associate – Certified (WTA-C)

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

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Note: *The examination handbook may also be downloaded and printed from the www.WOCNCB.org website.*

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WOCNCB®
555 E. Wells Street, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(888) 496-2622
www.WOCNCB.org

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.

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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 the wound treatment associate exam, individuals receive these credentials:

Wound Treatment Associate – Certified (WTA-C)

The WOCNCB® also offers wound, ostomy, continence, and foot care credentials as follows:

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-APSM
CWON-AP®
CCCN-APSM

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.

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STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

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

(RE)CERTIFICATION PHILOSOPHY

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, or continence 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

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 examination. 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
testing@castleworldwide.com

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ABOUT THE EXAMINATION

The WOCNCB® offers the Wound Treatment Associate examination. Castle Worldwide, Inc., our testing agency, provides the WOCNCB® with computerized multiple-choice examinations developed by WTA Examination Committee. This committee includes WOCNCB certified nurses with expertise in wound care 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 the examination. Upon completion of the examination immediate scoring showing pass/fail results are provided at the testing site via printed confirmation. 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

All WOCNCB® credentials are registered trademarks and can only be used after successfully completing the necessary examinations. Candidates passing the wound treatment associate examination will be awarded the Wound Treatment Associate – Certified (WTA-C™) credential.

The above credential is valid/trademarked as issued by the WOCNCB® and use of any other combination is prohibited. **Credentials are valid for a period of five (5) years.**

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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS: WOUND TREATMENT ASSOCIATE – CERTIFIED (WTA-C)

To earn the WTA-C credentials, a candidate must meet all WTA eligibility requirements listed below and pass the WTA certification examination. 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.

- Must have a current LVN, LPN or RN license
- Must have completed the WOCN Society's WTA Program, under the direction of an approved WOCNCB nurse and hold a current WTA Program certificate of completion
- Must have completed 16 supervised clinical wound care hours, under the direct supervision of an expert in wound care, for example: Physician, Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant, or an RN or APRN certified in wounds through WOCNCB®. The expert MUST HAVE experience relevant to wound care. (You will download a verification form from the online application that is signed by the expert.)

ELIGIBILITY PERIOD

Applications are processed on a rolling basis. Your application allows you an eligibility period to exam for up to 12 months after the date of application.

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 login to your account at: 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.

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

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted online at: www.castleworldwide.com/wocncb

Complete each portion of the online application which will require documentation as follows:

- LPN (or higher) license verification
- Documented completion of the WTA education program
- Completed verification form of 16 clinical practice hours with wound care expert

You will receive a confirmation email from Castle Worldwide that your application has been processed and made eligible for scheduling the WTA-C credentialing exam.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

❒ **Complete the online application (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.

❒ **Proof of current LVN, LPN, or RN license**

Upload or submit verification of the LVN, LPN or RN license, showing expiration date and state(s). This may come from the state board of nursing web site.

❒ **Proof of WTA education program completion**

Upload or submit copy of WTA education program certificate of completion.

❒ **Verification from your supervisor of clinical hours**

Download and complete the verification form found in the online application. The form will ask the supervisor to sign off as verification of your clinical experience. Once completed, you will upload or submit a copy to finish your exam application. The online application will also ask you to agree to the electronic attestation statement of clinical hours worked.

❒ **Include documentation of special disability if requesting special testing accommodations.**

Verification of disability must come from licensed healthcare professional.

❒ **Include examination fee.**

Submit examination fee by secure online payment or make check payable to castle Worldwide in USD.

STATUS OF YOUR APPLICATION

Allow sufficient time for application review (typically within one week or so). 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, or by calling Castle at 919-572-6880 for the status of an application.

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EXAMINATION FEES

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

All fees must be submitted with the application.

Examination Fee: $250 USD

This fee also applies to any exam including retakes and for recertification.

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.

RETAKE EXAM FEES

When retaking exams, the examination fee schedule above will apply. You may log in to your original application and click on the “retake” link to submit.

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EXAMINATION PROCESS

SCHEDULING A TESTING SESSION

Upon approval of your application, Castle will send notification of eligibility to sit for the examination and will provide a username, password, and directions on how to schedule a testing session. 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.

—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 when recertifying.

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

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.

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

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.

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RESCHEDULING A TESTING SESSION

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. If a computer is not accessible, please call castle directly at 919-572-6880.

EXAMINATION RULES

Castle follows industry standard testing rules as outlined below:

1. 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.
2. Candidates must bring photo identification with signature to the examination site. Acceptable forms of identification include driver's licenses, passports and government-issued identification cards **only**.
3. Each examination consists of 120 multiple-choice questions. Candidates will be permitted 120 minutes to complete each examination.
4. 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.

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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.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Examination results will be reported immediately at the test site. In addition, candidates may view their score results through the online credentialing system at www.castleworldwide/WOCNCB/. Scores will not be released by telephone, fax or email.

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.

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.

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/. 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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Policies

CONFIDENTIALITY

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.

REFUNDS

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.

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, 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

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
- 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.

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REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION

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 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

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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PREPARATION FOR THE EXAMINATION

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.

DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE — WOUND TREATMENT ASSOCIATE – CERTIFIED (WTA-C)

Domain I: Data Collection and Documentation		**Number of Test Questions 33**
Task 1: Identify wound and skin injury risk factors using medical records and patient/family interview to guide the development of the plan of care.		**8**
Knowledge of:		
a. Pressure injury risk assessment tools (e.g., Braden, Braden Q, Norton)		
b. Factors that affect wound healing and skin health (e.g., medications, comorbidities, abnormal labs, incontinence)		
c. Lifestyle behaviors that affect skin health (e.g., smoking, diet)		

		Number of Test Questions
Task 2: Collect objective skin-related and wound-related data to guide the development of the plan of care.		**8**
Knowledge of:		
a. Skin and mucous membrane inspection		
b. Alterations in skin integrity		
c. Medical device-related skin and mucosal alterations		
d. Wound assessment components (e.g., wound measurement tools and techniques, tissue types, periwound characteristics)		
e. Wound characteristics (e.g., classifications, stages, etiologies)		
f. Testing, including rationale (e.g., ankle-brachial index (ABI) testing, monofilament testing)		
Skill in:		
g. Evaluating wound and periwound characteristics (e.g., dimensions, drainage, odor, color, maceration, temperature, delayed wound healing)		
h. Ankle-brachial index (ABI) testing		
i. Monofilament testing		
j. Classifying wound types		
k. Inspecting skin and mucous membranes		
Task 3: Document and report skin-related and wound-related data and interventions to contribute to the development or modification of the plan of care.		**8**
Knowledge of:		
a. Medical terminology related to skin and wound care (e.g., anatomical location, position, and direction)		
b. Components of comprehensive wound documentation (e.g., drainage, wound edges, wound dimensions, cleansing, treatment, patient response)		
c. Situations requiring immediate consultation with certified wound care nurse (CWCN)/licensed independent practitioner (LIP)		
Task 4: Perform ongoing evaluation of patient, skin, and wound using direct observation and other assessment tools in order to ensure an appropriate and effective plan of care.		**9**
Knowledge of:		
a. Expected wound healing characteristics (e.g., presence of granulation, decreased wound dimensions)		
b. Reportable signs and symptoms of skin deterioration (e.g., medical adhesive-related skin injury (MARSI), moisture-associated skin damage (MASD), fungal overgrowth)		

		Number of Test Questions
c. Reportable signs and symptoms of wound-related adverse outcomes and complications (e.g., epibole, hypergranulation, induration, erythema, fluctuance)		
Domain II: Skin and Wound Care		**61**
Task 1: Implement preventive measures based on patient specific information to promote optimal skin health.		**9**
Knowledge of:		
a. Skin care across the lifespan		
b. pH-balanced skin products		
c. Safe patient handling principles and devices		
d. Pressure redistribution principles and devices		
e. Moisture management (e.g., barrier ointments and creams, containment devices and garments)		
f. Relationships among nutrition, hydration, and skin health		
g. Prophylactic dressing indication (e.g., soft silicone foam, transparent dressing)		
h. Preventive interventions based on risk assessment subscale scores		
i. Edema management indication		
Skill in:		
j. Safe patient handling		
k. Turning and repositioning techniques for pressure redistribution		
l. Applying compression garments, wraps, and devices		
Task 2: Provide wound care for lower extremity wounds (e.g., lower extremity arterial disease (LEAD), lower extremity venous disease (LEVD), lower extremity neuropathic disease (LEND)) by following evidence-based practice guidelines to improve patient outcomes.		**9**
Knowledge of:		
a. Pathophysiology of lower extremity arterial disease (LEAD), lower extremity venous disease (LEVD), lower extremity neuropathic disease (LEND) wounds		
b. Characteristics of and differences among lower extremity arterial disease (LEAD), lower extremity venous disease (LEVD), lower extremity neuropathic disease (LEND) wounds		
c. Periwound skin characteristics for lower extremity arterial disease (LEAD), lower extremity venous disease (LEVD), lower extremity neuropathic disease (LEND) wounds		
d. Normal and abnormal test results related to lower extremity arterial disease (LEAD), lower extremity venous disease (LEVD), lower extremity neuropathic disease (LEND) wounds		
e. Dressings and treatment options for lower extremity arterial disease (LEAD) wounds and periwound skin		

		Number of Test Questions
f. Dressings and treatment options for lower extremity venous disease (LEVD) wounds and periwound skin		
g. Dressings and treatment options for lower extremity neuropathic disease (LEND) wounds and periwound skin		
h. Dressings and treatment options for mixed-etiology wounds and periwound skin		
i. Lifestyle behaviors affecting lower extremity arterial disease (LEAD), lower extremity venous disease (LEVD), lower extremity neuropathic disease (LEND) wound healing		
Skill in:		
j. Selecting appropriate dressing category (e.g., hydrocolloid, thin film, foam) based on characteristics of lower extremity wound (within WTA scope of practice)		
k. Applying lower extremity venous disease (LEVD) compression garments, wraps, and devices		
Task 3: Provide pressure-related injury and wound care by following evidence-based practice guidelines to improve patient outcomes.		**9**
Knowledge of:		
a. Pathophysiology of pressure-related tissue injuries and wounds		
b. Options for preventing skin/wound deterioration (e.g., support surfaces, devices, positioning)		
c. Characteristics of pressure-related tissue injuries and wounds (e.g., staging/classification according to the National Pressure injury Advisory Panel (NPUAP) Classification System, partial versus full thickness, undermining, tunneling)		
d. Periwound skin characteristics for pressure-related tissue injuries and wounds		
e. Dressings and treatment options for pressure-related tissue injuries and wounds		
f. Relationship between lifestyle behaviors and the healing/reinjury of pressure-related tissue injuries and wounds		
Skill in:		
g. Selecting appropriate dressing category (e.g., hydrocolloid, thin film, foam) based on characteristics of pressure-related injury/wound (within WTA scope of practice)		
h. Safe patient handling related to pressure-related injury and wound care		

		Number of Test Questions
Task 4: Provide medical adhesive-related skin injury (MARSI) wound care by following evidence-based practice guidelines to improve patient outcomes.		**8**
Knowledge of:		
a. Anatomy and physiology of normal skin		
b. Risk factors for medical adhesive-related skin injuries (MARSIs) (e.g., age, comorbidities, lifestyle behaviors)		
c. Methods and products for preventing medical adhesive related skin injuries (MARSIs)		
d. Characteristics of skin injuries/wounds related to medical adhesives		
e. Periwound skin characteristics for skin injuries/wounds related to medical adhesives		
f. Dressings and treatment options for skin injuries/wounds related to medical adhesives		
Skill in:		
g. Selecting appropriate dressings based on characteristics of skin injury (within WTA scope of practice)		
h. Applying and removing products containing adhesives		
Task 5: Provide care for moisture-associated skin damage (MASD) (e.g., incontinence-associated dermatitis (IAD), intertriginous dermatitis (ITD)) by following evidence-based practice guidelines to improve patient outcomes.		**9**
Knowledge of:		
a. Pathophysiology of moisture-associated skin damage (MASD)		
b. Risk factors for moisture-associated skin damage (MASD) (e.g., age, BMI, incontinence, tracheostomy, feeding tube, skin folds)		
c. Options for preventing moisture-associated skin damage (MASD)		
d. Characteristics of incontinence-associated dermatitis (IAD)		
e. Characteristics of intertriginous dermatitis (ITD)		
f. Dressings and treatment options for moisture-associated skin damage (MASD)		
g. Relationship between lifestyle behaviors and moisture associated skin damage (MASD)		

		Number of Test Questions
Skill in:		
h. Selecting appropriate dressing/topical therapy based on characteristics of moisture-associated skin damage (MASD) within WTA scope of practice		
i. Performing skin inspection techniques		
Task 6: Provide wound care for partial-thickness and full thickness wounds (e.g., surgical wounds, traumatic skin tears, thermal wounds) by following evidence-based practice guidelines to improve patient outcomes.		**9**
Knowledge of:		
a. Basic wound care principles		
b. Characteristics of partial-thickness and full-thickness wounds		
c. Dressings and treatment options for partial-thickness and full-thickness wounds		
d. Phases of wound healing (e.g., inflammatory, proliferative, maturation)		
e. Adverse outcomes/complications for partial-thickness and full-thickness wounds		
Skill in:		
f. Selecting appropriate dressing category (e.g., hydrocolloid, thin film, foam) based on wound characteristics (within WTA scope of practice)		
g. Applying negative pressure wound therapy		
Task 7: Administer appropriate pharmaceutical and nonpharmaceutical pain management interventions related to wound and skin care in order to optimize patient comfort.		**8**
Knowledge of:		
a. Pharmaceutical interventions for minimizing wound related pain (e.g., premedication, topical, oral)		
b. Non-pharmaceutical interventions for minimizing wound related pain		
c. Relationship between pain and type of wound		
d. Relationship between pain and wound care products/dressings		
Skill in:		
e. Dressing application and removal techniques		

		Number of Test Questions
Domain III: WTA Professional Practice		**16**
Task 1: Collaborate with certified wound care nurse (CWCN)/licensed independent practitioner (LIP) when patient care needs exceed WTA scope of practice or established protocols.		**8**
Knowledge of:		
a. WOCN Society WTA Scope of practice		
b. Situations requiring immediate consultation with certified wound care nurse (CWCN)/licensed independent practitioner (LIP)		
c. Licensure scope of practice (i.e., state nurse practice acts, national council of state boards of nursing)		
d. Legal implications associated with exceeding WTA scope of practice		
e. Roles and responsibilities of the certified wound care nurse (CWCN)		
Task 2: Educate patients, caregivers, and other health care professionals on wound care principles in order to promote consistent delivery of care.		**8**
Knowledge of:		
a. Available skin and wound care resources (e.g., educational resources, supply resources, professional support)		
b. Relationship between lifestyle behaviors and effective self-care of skin and wounds (e.g., nutrition, hygiene, signs and symptoms of infection)		
c. Barriers to effective self-care of skin and wounds		
d. Strategies for educating patients, families, and other caregivers		
e. Strategies for educating other health care professionals		
Skill in:		
a. Communicating with members of the interdisciplinary team		

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.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

These sample questions are representative of actual examination questions. It is recommended you review the Exam Content Outline for subject matter contained on the examination. The examination is based upon this outline and each question will have a cited reference in current evidence-based publications as in the examples below.

1. An oxygen-dependent patient presents with an ulcer to the back of the ear that measures 0.5 cm x 0.2 cm x 0.1 cm with less than 20% slough noted in the wound bed. The remainder is viable tissue. How should this pressure injury be staged?
   A. Mucosal pressure injury
   B. Stage II pressure injury
   C. Stage III pressure injury
   D. Unstageable pressure injury

   References:

   Book: Author: R.A. Bryant & D.P. Nix Edited by R.A. Bryant & D.P. Nix, Copyright Date: 2012, Chapter: Glossary*, Title: Acute and Chronic Wounds: Current Management Concepts, 4th edition*, Published by Mosby in St. Louis, MO. Page 133

2. An ankle brachial index of 0.8 is indicative of which of the following?
   A. Lower extremity arterial disease
   B. A normal finding
   C. Severe ischemia
   D. An abnormally high reading

   References:

   Book: Author: Bryant, R., & Nix, D. Edited by Bryant & Nix, Copyright Date: 2012, Chapter: Developing and Maintaining a Pressure ulcer Prevention Program, Title: Acute and Chronic Wounds: Current Management Concepts, 4th edition, Published by Elsevier, Inc. Page 185.

3. At which stage of the lifespan is skin approximately 13% of the total body weight?
   A. Premature newborn
   B. Term newborn
   C. Adult
   D. Elderly

   References:

   Book: Author: Wysocki, A. Edited by Bryant, R., Nix, D., Copyright Date: 2012, Chapter: Anatomy and Physiology of Skin and Soft Tissue, Title: Acute and Chronic Wounds: Current Management Concepts, 4 edition, Published by Elsevier Mosby in St. Louis.

Answer key

Question	Correct Answer
1.	C
2.	A
3.	A

WOCNCB
555 E. Wells St., Suite 1100
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(888) 496-2622
www.wocncb.org