

WOCNCB COCN 2023 DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE

Exam content purpose: The COCN certification examination aims to ensure specialized competence and professionalism for nurses who provide ostomy care assessment, intervention, and education in all settings across the healthcare continuum. The purpose of the credentialing exam is to establish and measure the level of knowledge required for certification. This exam outline summarizes the list of performance domains, tasks, knowledge, and skills needed for assessing specialized competence. The content outline contains categories relevant to each of the performance areas and specifies the number of questions for each category. Complexity levels for questions are also assigned as recall, application and analysis.

The following table shows the exam weights for domains and tasks	Total number of overall exam questions (110)	Exam Percentage	Test Specifications, number of items per Domain or Task
Classification Number			
Domain I: Assessment	010000		27
Task 1: Obtain patient health history through interviews, established medical records, and questionnaires to determine the patient’s current health and risk status.	010100	7.72%	9
Knowledge of:			
a. Principles of patient-centered care (e.g., psychosocial issues, health literacy, cultural beliefs, informed consent)	010101		
b. Nutrition, fluid and electrolyte balance, medications, lab values	010102		
c. Surgical indications (e.g., cancer, IBD-Crohn’s/UC, necrotizing enterocolitis, trauma, perforation, ischemia)	010103		
d. Surgical procedures (e.g., ileal pouch-anal anastomosis [IPAA], continent reservoir, low anterior resection [LAR], total proctocolectomy, abdominal perineal resection [APR])	010104		
e. Etiological factors of fistula development (e.g., radiation, infection, surgery, immune compromised, IBD-Crohn’s/UC)	010105		
f. Available health care resources (e.g., support and advocacy, supply access, post-acute care)	010106		
Skill in:			
g. Evaluating ability to provide self-care (e.g., manual dexterity, vision, cognition)	010107		
Task 2: Assess health-related quality of life of patients with ostomies, continent diversions, fistulae, or percutaneous tubes/drains.	010200	7.11%	8
Knowledge of:			
a. Psychosocial factors affecting care (e.g., patient and caregiver ability to learn and perform care, economic implications, education, coping mechanisms)	010201		

b. Patient and caregiver goals (e.g., self-care, reliable pouch wear time, activity)	010202		
c. Special considerations (e.g., population, cultural beliefs, changes in body image, intimacy)	010203		
Skill in:			
d. Interpreting pain using verbal and nonverbal tools	010204		
Task 3: Perform focused assessments to determine current status of ostomies, continent diversions, fistulae, or percutaneous tubes/drains.	010300	9.35%	10
Knowledge of:			
a. Types of urinary diversion (e.g., urostomy, continent pouch, orthotopic neobladder)	010301		
b. Types of fecal diversion (e.g., colostomy, ileostomy, continent pouch)	010302		
c. Types of fistulae (e.g., enterocutaneous, colocutaneous, vesicocutaneous)	010303		
d. Fistula characteristics (e.g., volume, simple/complex, pseudostoma, acute/chronic)	010304		
e. Types of percutaneous tubes/drains (e.g., nephrostomy, gastrostomy, surgical drain)	010305		
f. Stoma site marking (e.g., abdominal contours, clothing choices, pouching options, lifestyle, surgical procedures)	010306		
g. Stoma types (e.g., end, loop, temporary, permanent)	010307		
h. Stomal complications (e.g., prolapse, retraction, necrosis)	010308		
i. Bridge (e.g., rod, loop)	010309		
j. Effluent quality, type, frequency, and volume	010310		
k. Containment modalities (e.g., pouches, absorptive dressings)	010311		
l. Factors affecting optimal ostomy management (e.g., high output, ineffective pouching, peristomal skin injury)	010312		
m. Skin health and protection (e.g., crusting, skin barrier)	010313		
n. Peristomal complications (e.g., mucocutaneous separation, dermatitis, pyoderma gangrenosum, pseudoverrucous lesions, hernia)	010314		
o. Surgical complications (e.g., dehiscence, infection, ileus)	010315		
Domain II: Intervention	020000	21.75%	24
Task 1: Recommend and/or provide interventions to promote optimal management of fecal and urinary diversions.	020100	8.44%	9
Knowledge of:			
a. Selection of pouching systems and accessories	020101		
Skill in:			
b. Monitoring nutrition, fluid and electrolyte balance, medications, lab values	020102		
c. Recommend medications (e.g., anti-diarrheals, stool softeners)	020103		

d. Select and mark stoma sites (e.g., abdominal contours, clothing choices, pouching options, lifestyle, surgical procedures)	020104		
e. Post-operative care (e.g., IPAA, continent reservoir, LAR, total proctocolectomy, APR, ileal conduit)	020105		
f. Collecting urine specimens from ileal conduits	020106		
Task 2: Recommend and/or provide interventions to promote optimal management of fistulae.	020200	7.04%	8
Knowledge of:			
a. Perifistular skin care	020201		
b. Selection of containment options (e.g., pouching, absorptive dressings, NPWT)	020202		
Skill in:			
c. Monitoring nutrition, fluid and electrolyte balance, medications, lab values	020203		
d. Recommend medications (e.g., octreotides)	020204		
Task 3: Recommend and/or provide interventions to promote optimal management of percutaneous tubes/drains.	020300	6.14%	7
Knowledge of:			
a. Identifying management plan (e.g., stabilization, patency, skin care)	020301		
b. Identifying complications (e.g., dislodgement, hypertrophic tissue, blockage, leakage)	020302		
c. Selection of containment options (e.g., pouching, absorptive dressings)	020303		
Domain III: Treatment	030000	21.25%	23
Task 1: Management of fecal and urinary diversions.	030100	8.86%	10
Skill in:			
a. Urostomy management (e.g., mucus, stents, bedside drainage)	030101		
b. Colostomy management (e.g., irrigation, closed-end pouches, odor)	030102		
c. Ileostomy management (e.g., fluid and electrolyte management, food blockage, medications)	030103		
d. Continent diversion management (e.g., intermittent catheterization, irrigation)	030104		
e. Managing peristomal skin and/or complications (e.g., crusting, cauterization)	030105		
f. Managing stomal complications (e.g., accessories, convexity)	030106		
g. Application of pouching systems and accessories	030107		
h. Pouching and/or removal of bridge (e.g., rod, loop)	030108		
Task 2: Management of fistulae.	030200	6.71%	7

Skill in:			
a. Managing peristomal skin and/or complications (e.g., crusting, cauterization)	030201		
b. Management of fistula characteristics (e.g., volume, simple/complex, pseudostoma, acute/chronic)	030202		
c. Application of containment options (e.g., pouching, absorptive dressings, NPWT)	030203		
Task 3: Management of percutaneous tubes/drains.	030300	5.67%	6
Skill in:			
a. Managing peritubular skin and/or complications (e.g., crusting, cauterization, stabilization)	030301		
b. Managing tube/drain complications (e.g., stabilization, irrigation)	030302		
c. Application of containment options (e.g., pouching, absorptive dressings)	030303		
Domain IV: Care Planning	040000	12.49%	14
Task 1: Develop a patient-centered plan of care by using health history and assessments to establish goals for the management of ostomies, continent diversions, fistulae, or percutaneous tubes/drains.	040100	6.33%	7
Knowledge of:			
a. Principles of patient-centered care (e.g., psychosocial, access to care and supplies, cultural beliefs, coping mechanisms)	040101		
b. Special considerations (e.g., disabilities, changes in body image, intimacy)	040102		
c. Additional considerations (e.g., neonatal, obstetric, pediatric, bariatric)	040103		
Skill in:			
d. Identifying and supporting patient and caregiver goals (e.g., self-care, reliable pouch wear time, activity)	040104		
Task 2: Evaluate the patient-centered plan of care by using periodic assessments to promote optimal ostomy, continent diversion, fistula, or percutaneous tube/drain management.	040200	6.16%	7
Skill in:			
a. Evaluating the effectiveness of the current treatment plan	040201		
b. Interpreting patient responses to interventions	040202		
c. Modifying interventions based on revised patient needs and goals	040203		
Domain V: Education and Referral	050000	20.33%	22
Task 1: Educate patients and caregivers across the lifespan on care principles and techniques to encourage patient autonomy.	050100	7.81%	9

Skill in:			
a. Educate on nutrition, fluid and electrolyte balance, medications	050101		
b. Preoperative education (e.g., surgical procedures, lifestyle changes, stoma management, stoma site marking)	050102		
c. Postoperative education (e.g., pouching, activity, intimacy, nutrition, peristomal skin health, coping mechanisms)	050103		
d. Management techniques of ostomies, continent diversions, fistulae, or percutaneous tubes/drains.	050104		
e. Managing complications of ostomies, continent diversions, fistulae, or percutaneous tubes/drains.	050105		
f. Education on emergent complications	050106		
Task 2: Educate other health care professionals on care principles and techniques to promote optimal management and prevent complications.	050200	6.74%	7
Skill in:			
a. Educate on nutrition, fluid and electrolyte balance, medications	050201		
b. Postoperative education (e.g., pouching, activity, intimacy, nutrition, peristomal skin health, coping mechanisms)	050202		
c. Management techniques of ostomies, continent diversions, fistulae, or percutaneous tubes/drains.	050203		
d. Managing complications of ostomies, continent diversions, fistulae, or percutaneous tubes/drains.	050204		
e. Education on emergent complications	050205		
Task 3: Multidisciplinary care collaboration and referrals to support patient-centered care.	050300	5.79%	6
Skill in:			
a. Available resources (e.g., support groups and advocacy, supply access, post-acute care)	050301		
b. Referrals for other services (e.g., rehabilitation, nutrition, social services, mental health, ostomy clinic)	050302		
c. Facilitate appropriate consultations (e.g., surgery, infectious disease, dermatology)	050303		
d. Provide handoff communication across care settings	050304		