

WOCNCB CWCN 2023 DETAILED CONTENT OUTLINE

Exam content purpose: The CWCN certification examination aims to ensure specialized competence and professionalism for nurses who provide wound 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			
Domain I: Assessment	010000	23.54%	26
Task 1: Assess Comprehensive Factors Affecting Wounds	010100	7.55%	8
Knowledge of:			
a. Psychosocial factors affecting care (e.g., patient and caregiver ability to learn and perform care, economic implications, education, mental status, family dynamics, cultural beliefs)	010101		
b. Factors affecting wound healing (e.g., nutrition, comorbidities, medications, age, pain, mobility)	010102		
Skill in:			
c. Identifying need for diagnostic studies (e.g., biopsy, blood values, imaging, vascular, toe-brachial index [TBI], anklebrachial index [ABI], duplex scanning)	010103		
Task 2: Obtain patient health history through interviews, established medical records, and questionnaires to determine the patient's current health and risk status.	010200	7.17%	8
Knowledge of:			
a. Interview processes	010201		
b. Basic diagnostic test results (e.g., lab values, imaging studies, vascular studies, wound cultures)	010202		
Skill in:			
c. Performing initial assessment (e.g., history and presentation, comorbidities, cultural diversity, age, medications, psychological issues)	010203		
d. Interpreting nutritional status (e.g., lab values, diet history, BMI, appearance)	010204		
e. Interpreting pain using verbal and nonverbal tools	010205		

Task 3: Perform focused assessments to determine current skin status and wound etiology (pressure, venous, arterial, neuropathic, other).	010300	8.82%	10
Knowledge of:			
a. Dermatological etiology (e.g., contact dermatitis, fungal infection, herpetic lesions)	010301		
b. Wound etiology (e.g., pressure, LEAD, LEVD, neuropathic, trauma, surgical, atypical, burns)	010302		
c. Skin and wound classification systems (e.g., pressure injury stages, medical adhesive-related skin injury [MARS], moisture-associated skin damage [MASD], skin tears, Wagner)	010303		
d. Periwound characteristics (e.g., induration, temperature, fluctuance, denudation, maceration, cellulitis)	010304		
e. Wound characteristics (e.g., tissue type, dimensions, location, exudate, odor, wound edges, color, epibole)	010305		
f. Phases of wound healing (e.g., hemostasis, inflammation, proliferation, maturation)	010306		
g. Characteristics of healing wounds (e.g., granulation, decreased dimensions, resurfacing)	010307		
h. Characteristics of non-healing wounds (e.g., infection, biofilm, closed edge)	010308		
i. Indications and side effects of medications affecting wound healing	010309		
Skill in:			
j. Utilizing risk assessment tools (e.g., Braden Scale, Braden Q Scale, Norton Plus Scale)	010310		
k. Lower extremity assessment (e.g., quality of pulses, capillary refill, appearance of skin, elevational pallor, hair and nails, edema, protective sensation, proprioception)	010311		
l. Identifying the need for wound culture and choosing the most appropriate method	010312		
Domain II: Intervention	020000	16.55%	18
Task 1: Recommend and/or provide appropriate interventions to promote optimal wound management.	020100	8.44%	9
Knowledge of:			
a. Principles of wound care (e.g., filling of dead space, moisture balance, periwound skin protection)	020101		
b. Wound bed preparation (e.g., debridement, infection management, moisture management, wound edge optimization)	020102		
c. Determining interventions to manage wounds (e.g., adjunctive modalities, offloading, support surfaces, protective footwear, tight glucose control, total contact casting)	020103		
d. Types, indications, and contraindications of debridement (e.g., biologic, autolytic, chemical, mechanical, surgical, conservative sharp, excisional)	020104		

Skill in:			
e. Recommending appropriate pain management modalities	020105		
f. Obtain wound cultures (e.g., aspirate, Levine, punch biopsy)	020106		
g. Recommending and/or performing appropriate studies (e.g., biopsy, laboratory, radiography, toe-brachial index (TBI), ankle-brachial index (ABI), transcutaneous oxygen pressure (TcPO2), duplex scanning)	020107		
Task 2: Implement prevention measures to promote optimal skin health and prevent injury.	020200	8.11%	9
Knowledge of:			
a. Preventive measures based on risk assessment (e.g., moisture management, pressure redistribution, offloading, friction and shear management, nutrition)	020201		
b. Types of support surfaces	020202		
Skill in:			
c. Implementing interventions based on risk assessment (e.g., moisture management, pressure redistribution, nutrition, cognition, mobility, offloading)	020203		
d. Utilizing appropriate skin care products	020204		
e. Preventing complications of wound healing (e.g., infection, maceration, inappropriate product use)	020205		
f. Selecting support surfaces	020206		
Domain III: Treatment	030000	29.49%	32
Task 1: Recommend and/or perform wound bed preparation.	030100	7.43%	8
Skill in:			
a. Recommending appropriate wound cleansing regimen	030101		
b. Wound bed preparation (e.g., infection management, moisture management, wound edge optimization)	030102		
Task 2: Recommend and/or perform debridement to promote wound healing.	030200	7.45%	8
Knowledge of:			
a. Types of debridement (e.g., biologic, autolytic, chemical, mechanical, surgical, conservative sharp, excisional)	030201		
b. Identifying indications and contraindications for debridement	030202		
c. Identifying wounds that require chemical cauterization	030203		
Skill in:			
d. Selecting appropriate debridement modalities	030204		
Task 3: Knowledge and application of topical therapies to promote wound healing.	030300	7.52%	8

Knowledge of:			
a. Topical therapies (e.g., absorbent dressing, antimicrobials, hydrating dressing)	030301		
Skill in:			
b. Recommending appropriate topical treatment to maintain periwound integrity	030302		
c. Selecting and applying topical therapies for moist wound healing (e.g., containment of drainage, eliminate dead space, reduce bioburden, control odor)	030303		
Task 4: Knowledge and application of advanced/adjunctive therapies to promote wound healing.	030400	7.10%	8
Knowledge of:			
a. Types, indications, and contraindications for compression therapy	030401		
b. Types of advanced modalities for treatment (e.g., leech therapy, bioengineered tissue, negative pressure wound therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy)	030402		
c. Types of adjunctive modalities (e.g., hydrotherapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, pulsed lavage, mist therapy, maggot therapy)	030403		
Skill in:			
d. Recommending compression therapy to manage edema (e.g., dynamic and static compression therapy)	030404		
e. Applying compression therapy (e.g., dynamic and static compression therapy)	030405		
f. Recommending and/or performing advanced wound therapies (e.g., leech therapy, bioengineered tissue, negative pressure wound therapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy)	030406		
g. Recommending and/or performing adjunctive modalities (e.g., hydrotherapy, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, pulsed lavage, mist therapy, maggot therapy)	030407		
h. Recommending and/or performing total contact casting	030408		
Domain IV: Care Planning	040000	11.79%	13
Task 1: Develop a patient-centered plan of care by using health history and assessments to establish skin and wound management goals.	040100	5.65%	6
Knowledge of:			
a. Principles of patient-centered care (e.g., psychosocial issues, access to care, cultural beliefs)	040101		
Skill in:			
b. Identifying and supporting patient and caregiver goals (e.g., preventive, palliative, maintenance, curative)	040102		

c. Setting patient-focused goals (e.g., preventive, palliative, maintenance, curative)	040103		
Task 2: Evaluate the patient-centered plan of care by using periodic assessments to promote optimal skin and wound management.	040200	6.14%	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	18.63%	21
Task 1: Educate patients and caregivers by using the individualized skin and wound care plan to prevent complications, maintain optimal skin and wound health, and encourage patient autonomy.	050100	6.57%	7
Knowledge of:			
a. Education based on health literacy and goals of patient/caregiver	050101		
b. Factors affecting wound management (e.g., infection control, nutrition, moisture management, repositioning, tobacco cessation, glycemic control, compliance)	050102		
c. Available resources (e.g., support and advocacy, supply access, post-acute care)	050103		
Skill in:			
d. Educating the patient and family on the procedures, rationale, and significance of diagnostic test results	050104		
e. Educating the patient and caregivers on wound care procedures and skin care	050105		
f. Educating patient and caregivers regarding modifiable risk factors (e.g., tobacco cessation, exercise, safety awareness, diet, offloading)	050106		
g. Educating on factors affecting wound management (e.g., infection control, nutrition, moisture management, repositioning, tobacco cessation, glycemic control, compliance)	050107		
h. Recommending non-invasive and invasive interventions (e.g., pharmacological, walking program, surgical)	050108		
Task 2: Educate other health care professionals on skin and wound care management and prevent complications.	050200	5.93%	7
Knowledge of:			
a. Factors affecting wound management (e.g., infection control, nutrition, moisture management, repositioning, tobacco cessation, glycemic control, compliance, trauma avoidance)	050201		

b. Educating health care clinicians and providers on skin and wound care principles, procedures, and treatment goals	050202		
c. Educating on factors affecting wound management (e.g., infection control, nutrition, moisture management, repositioning, tobacco cessation, glycemic control, compliance, trauma avoidance)	050203		
Task 3: Multidisciplinary care collaboration and referrals to support patient-centered care.	050300	6.13%	7
Knowledge of:			
a. Available resources (e.g., support and advocacy, supply access, post-acute care)	050301		
b. Referrals for other services (e.g., rehabilitation, nutrition, diabetic education, social services, mental health)	050302		
Skill in:			
c. Referral for appropriate studies (e.g., biopsy, laboratory, radiography, toe-brachial index (TBI), ankle-brachial index (ABI), transcutaneous oxygen pressure (TcPO2), duplex scanning)	050303		
d. Facilitate appropriate consultations (e.g., surgery, infectious disease, dermatology, podiatry)	050304		
e. Provide handoff communication	050305		