

Become Part of the Solution

Complications following ostomy surgeries are a significant problem for many individuals. Studies show that up to 71% of patients with an ileostomy experience complications as do 43% of those with a colostomy.² Postoperatively, patients will often report a loss of confidence, independence, and dignity, as well as fears of rejection and ridicule.³

Additional research shows that successful adjustment to a colostomy and improved quality of life is most likely to occur if instruction in self-care and appropriate psychological support is given by a specialized stoma/ostomy clinician.^{3,4}



Being board certified as an Ostomy Management Specialist[®] assures the patient that their care provider is qualified to deliver the proper care, education, and management of their ostomy/incontinent diversion.

NAWCO[®]

NAWCO is a nonprofit credentialing organization governed by its Board of Directors. The Board of Directors which partners with the independent NAWCO Certification Committee has approved the OMS board certification. The highly respected OMS credential is the only multi-disciplinary certification in ostomy management. NAWCO has certified licensed healthcare professionals for more than 15 years.



1. Gwen B. Turnbull, RN, BS. The Ostomy Files: Ostomy Statistics: The \$64,000 Question, Ostomy Wound Management. Volume 49-issue 6; June, 2003.
2. Persson E, Gustavsson B, Hellstrom A, Lappas G, Hulten L. Ostomy patients' perceptions of quality of care. J Adv Nurs. 2005;49(1):51-58.
3. Piwonka MA, Merino JM. A multidimensional modeling of predictors influencing the adjustment to a colostomy. J Wound Ostomy Continence Nurs. 1999;26(6):298-305.
4. Marquis P, Marrel A, Jambon B. Quality of life in patients with stomas: the Montreux study. Ostomy Wound Management. 2003; 49(2):48-55

NAWCO is the leading wound care certification organization, certifying licensed healthcare professionals for more than 15 years.



National Alliance of Wound Care
and Ostomy[®]

PO Box 235 | Somonauk, IL 60552
Toll Free: 877-922-6292 | Fax: 800-352-8339
Email: admin@nawccb.org | Web: www.nawccb.org



Skilled
compassionate
care to an
underserved
population
Become an Ostomy
Management
Specialist[®]




National Alliance of Wound Care
and Ostomy[®]

Facts:

- Annually, 120,000 new ostomy surgeries are performed in the United States.¹
- UOAA estimates 500,000 ostomates in the United States.¹
- The demand for ostomy care professionals has never been greater.

How to Pursue OMS Certification

OMS board certification is a voluntary choice made by eligible candidates to demonstrate their expertise in the specialty of ostomies and incontinent diversion management.

The National Alliance of Wound Care and Ostomy® (NAWCO®) believes board certification should be available to all qualified candidates without requirements that involve months of long distance courses and preceptorships that can take you away from your job and family for extended periods of time. Our pathway options are straightforward (see OMS eligibility chart).

Depending on your individual experience and education, OMS board certification can be attained in as little as five (5) days. OMS board certification is valid for five (5) years and does not demand expensive annual fees to maintain your status.

As a certified OMS clinician, your tested knowledge will set you apart from those who are not certified and only have minimal experience.



ELIGIBILITY CHART

OMS Certification	Pathway Options		
	Experiential	Continuing Education	Training Course
#1 Eligible License Current License RN, LPN/LVN, NP, PA, PT, PTA, OT, OTA, MD, DO, DPM	✓	✓	✓
#2 Experience* (In past 5 years) Active involvement in the consultation and/or care of ostomy patients one (1) year full-time in the past five (5) years as RN, LPN/LVN, NP, PA, PT, PTA, OT, OTA, MD, DO, DPM <small>*EXPERIENCE: Full-time is considered 40 hours per week. Part-time is considered less than 40 hours per week.</small>	✓	✓	✓
#3 Pathway Requirements <i>Must meet one (1) of the following</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognized author of published works related to ostomy care (e.g. textbooks, pocketbooks, e-books, guidelines, or peer reviewed journals) • Served as officer, committee representative, or volunteer of a nationally recognized ostomy care organization* • Nationally known speaker that has presented ostomy related topics 60 Contact Hours of continuing education in ostomy and wound care within the past five (5) years Graduation from an ostomy training course that meets certification committee criteria <small>*ORGANIZATIONS: UOAA, IOA</small>	✓	✓	✓
#4 Additional Requirements Applicants must agree to adhere to the NAWCO® Code of Ethics Completion of application and required supporting documentation Full payment of required fees Passing score on OMS Certification exam	Necessary for all Applicants		
		✓	✓
		✓	✓
		✓	✓
#5 Choose Your Pathway For more detailed information about each pathway, refer to the OMS Candidate Exam Handbook	Experiential Pathway	Continuing Education Pathway	Training Course Pathway

Once eligibility requirements are met, OMS candidates may sit for the national board certification exam.



Make the Most of Your OMS Credential

Upon passing the certification exam, you will earn the credentials, OMS to officially designate you as board certified in ostomy management. It is important to include OMS with your professional license and other credentials. After all, you earned it and deserve the recognition that comes along with achieving board certification.



Tools and Resources

NAWCO® offers resources to support its certificants. One resource is the “Certificants” Support Site. This exclusive site offers career development tools, templates, and educational resources.

Other Certifications

NAWCO® offers five (5) professional certifications:

- Wound Care Certified, WCC®
- Diabetic Wound Certified, DWC®
- Lymphedema Lower Extremity, LLE®
- Ostomy Management Specialist®, OMSsm
- Nutrition Wound Care Certified, NWCC™