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. Postoperatively, patients will often report a loss of confidence, independence, and dignity, as well as fears of rejection and ridicule.

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.

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.

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

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®, OMS™
- Nutrition Wound Care Certified, NWCC™