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news

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION of the AMERICAN ACADEMY of WOUND MANAGEMENT

CWS Pride™

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Dear Academy:

I became certified in 1999. I wanted to take a moment and let you know how this certification has enhanced my nursing career. I am employed by a large retirement community as an MDS Coordinator, my passion second to wound care. I was called in as a consultant prior to becoming a full time employee due to inconsistent wound documentation and survey issues. The physicians and staff were apprehensive at first but quickly came to realize they were not as knowledgeable as they thought. I gave inservices to all staff from CNA's to dietary, focusing on prevention, documentation, legal issues, accurate staging and appropriate treatments. I initiated protocols with the approval of the Medical Director and initiated rounds on existing wounds and resident's at risk. Since initiating this program two years ago, the number of acquired in house wounds has decreased dramatically. Healing times have improved due to appropriate treatment modalities. To this day, the staff, physicians and myself work very closely on prevention and management. I have earned their respect and autonomy with the physicians. It is very rewarding to be a part of a team that focuses on each resident as an individual when dealing with treatments and interventions. I have recruited others in our community encouraging them to pursue certification. I recently have been asked to consult at other facilities in our community. This, I feel, has rendered me a success in the field of wound care. This certification means a lot to me as a professional. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dawn Patterson, LPN, CWS

New Board Members Elected; Officers Appointed

Three board members were recently elected to fill three-year terms beginning October 1, 2001. A mail ballot was submitted to CWSs in August for vote for these open seats. The elected members include:

- Charles F. Gokoo, MD, CWS
- Diane Krasner, Ph.D., RN, CWOCN, CWS, FAAN (Incumbent)
- Joseph M. McCulloch, Ph.D., PT, CWS (Incumbent)

Also elected to the board for the first time is a Public Member, **Anthony J. McNevin, CAE**, American Association of College of Podiatric Medicine, for a three-year term. The public member allows AAWM to move forward with Certification from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies, a commission that accredits certification agencies and establishes criteria and standards for these agencies.

Officers for the Academy were also elected at the September 28th Board of Directors meeting and include:

- Liza G. Ovington, Ph.D., CWS—
President
- Dr. David Eisenbud, MD, CWS—
Vice President
- Dr. Chet Evans, DPM, CWS—
Secretary/Treasurer

Officers serve a one-year term that expires in October 2002.

AAWM Mission

AAWM is dedicated to the multidisciplinary team approach in promoting the science of prevention, care and treatment of acute and chronic wounds. The primary function is to establish and monitor a national certification process, recognize competency, promote education and research, and elevate the standard of care across the continuum of wound management.

AAWM News is published quarterly as a member service of the American Academy of Wound Management.

Anatomy of the CWS™ Exam

by Liza G. Ovington, Ph.D., CWS, President AAWM

The American Academy of Wound Management's National Certification Examination may be recently familiar to many of you reading this. The exam is a dynamic document, which must be kept up to date as well as consistent in terms of content. Each time the exam is given (twice yearly), approximately 30% of the 200 multiple choice items are rotated off and must be replaced with different items in the same topic categories. Our item databank is increasing in size, but we have a constant and continuing need for new questions in our seven major subject areas: Anatomy, Physiology, Pathophysiology, Diagnosis, Therapeutics, Psychosocial, and General. Within each of these seven major subject areas there are multiple subtopics, with new ones being added. Copies of the examination blueprint, which lists the topics and subtopics in an outline format, are available from the AAWM office upon request.

We will soon be initiating photographic case study items—where the exam item question is based on a color clinical photograph. Our organization needs your help in submitting new exam items on an ongoing basis. If every CWS submitted just ONE item, we would be in great shape! Creating an exam item is no simple feat. The AAWM office can provide you with some background information about constructing quality questions, but basically, the

item must have a well composed “stem” (the question part) with no extraneous information and one correct answer plus three plausible distracters (wrong answers). We also need a reference for each question submitted—meaning, where can one find the answer documented in a book or peer-reviewed journal article.

And even though you may work hard creating your submission, know that the work does not end there. After a number of new items have been submitted, we convene an “Item Review Session.” In an item review session, approximately 6–8 current CWSs reflecting our multiple disciplines and diverse geography are invited to review each item along with the Exam Chair and a representative from our testing company, Professional Testing Corporation. These sessions are rather grueling—we critique each question and each answer and almost no question comes out without some editing. I am present at all item reviews and inevitably, the participants agree that it is a challenging process but one in which they learn a lot from each other. But the work is still not over.... After items are received and reviewed and edited for content and categorized according to our exam blueprint, there is one more round of scrutiny—the “Exam Review.” The exam review session again convenes a group of 6–8 CWSs plus the exam chair and PTC representative. At this session, a complete exam—200 items select-

ed from our item databank—is reviewed. For all questions, this is the second round of scrutiny and for many it is the third or even fourth or fifth depending on when it was submitted to the databank. This continual review allows us to weed out any questions where perhaps practice or regulations may have changed or research has proven something different. After the reviewers have made any edits or changes to the items, a cut score for that exam is determined by the group and is therefore able to be specific for that exam. Both types of review sessions are challenging and I hope rewarding for the participants. Sessions are typically a day and a half (Saturday and Sunday) and participation is voluntary. AAWM pays for your travel expenses and provides breakfast, lunch and dinner. We try to feed you well, and dinner is a great time to network with your colleagues and learn about wound care practices in other parts of the country.

Please accept the challenge of contributing to our item databank and also participating in the review process. A great time to come up with new exam items is right after a review session or after a national or regional wound care conference—remember—even one item helps!

NOTE: The next Exam Review is January 12–13, 2002 at the AAWM Offices in Washington, DC. To participate in this committee, contact Emily Gegg at egegg@aawm.org

Welcome Kim!



Please join us in welcoming Kimberly Cooper as the new Administrative Assistant for AAWM. A native Washingtonian, Kim joined the AAWM staff in August. Kim can be reached at 202-521-0368 or via email at kcooper@aawm.org.

AAWM Bylaws Update

The August 2001 Bylaws changes were unanimously approved as submitted to CWSs. They include:

- 1. The addition of a fourth level of certification:** Research Associate status may be granted to non-clinical individuals with a baccalaureate (or higher) degree. Documentation to include five years of research experience in wound care or wound related fields is required.
- 2. Clarification of the Clinical Associate status** to make all candidates in this category Licensed health care providers.
- 3. Deletion of the Advisory Committee under**

Chapter IX. The board determined that Advisory Committee issues could be resolved by an Ad Hoc committee, if the need arose

Additionally, the Board of Directors voted unanimously on September 28, 2001 to eliminate the “Membership” category from AAWM. This proposed bylaws change will be submitted in the next CWS mailing. The reason behind this decision is that AAWM is a certifying body and not a membership organization. This membership category causes confusion and could be misinterpreted by those outside AAWM.

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

This section is devoted to your frequently asked questions. Submit questions to woundnet@aawm.org.

■ Why do I have to renew each year?

It is standard practice for certifying organizations to have its certificants renew each year. Upon renewal you are asked to pay the renewal fee of \$150 and document six (6) hours of continuing

education in wound care. CWSs who do not comply will have their CWS revoked. Those who renew will get a new CWS card each year with their renewal date printed on it.

■ When is my renewal due?

The Academy has adopted a new policy that has all individuals who were originally certified between January and June renew

in April and those certified between July and December renew in October. The new CWS cards sent in 2001 will make it easier to remember renewal dates for 2002.

■ I've changed my name, can I get a new CWS Certificate?

New certificates can be issued to CWSs for a fee of \$25. Contact Headquarters to order your new certificate.

Meetings Calendar

NOVEMBER 3-7, 2001

American Society of Plastic Surgeons Convention Center

Orlando, FL
(847) 228-7597
(847) 228-9900 fax
sip@plasticsurgery.org
<http://www.plasticsurgery.org>

NOVEMBER 7-10, 2001

American Society of Consultant Pharmacists-Annual Meeting

McCormick Place, Chicago, IL
(703) 739-1300
(703) 739-1500 fax
E-mail: jhajji@ascp.com
<http://www.ascp.com>

NOVEMBER 7-10, 2001

National Conference for Nurse Practitioners

Baltimore, MD
Contact Karyn Cousart
(800) 346-7844 ext. 1272
<http://www.springnet.com>

NOVEMBER 10-11, 2001

Wound Care Associates Current Concepts in Wound Healing

Reading, PA
(262) 245-6812
feedar@woundcareresources.com

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2001

Wound Care Update 2001: Does Time Heal All Wounds?

Shoreline Conference Center
Seattle, WA
(206) 543-1047
cne@u.washington.edu

NOVEMBER 16, 2001

Pedorthic Footwear Association Conservative Foot Health Management Apex Foot Health Industries, Inc.

Hosted by Miami Leather Company
Boca Raton, FL
Contact John Benitez
(800) 749-9402
www.pedorthics.org

DECEMBER 1-2, 2001

SAFIO Class Riecken's Orthotic Laboratory

Evansville, IN
Contact Darlene Stanton
(812) 476-8006

DECEMBER 6-9, 2001

UTHSCSA Diabetic Foot Conference

Westin Riverwalk Hotel
San Antonio, TX
(210) 567-4446
<http://www.diabeticfoot.org>

FEBRUARY 20-24, 2002

CSM 2002: The Combined Sections Meeting of the American Physical Therapy Association

Boston, Massachusetts

FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 2, 2002

The American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons Annual Meeting and Scientific Seminar

Beverly Hills, California
(800) 421-2237
mail@acfas.org
<http://www.acfas.org/expo/index.html>

APRIL 27-30, 2002

Fifteenth Annual Symposium on Advanced Wound Care

Baltimore Convention Center
Baltimore, MD
www.woundcaresymposium.com

JUNE 5-8, 2002

Physical Therapy 2002: Annual Conference & Exposition of the American Physical Therapy Association

Cincinnati, Ohio
www.apta.org/meetings

SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2002

Seventeenth Annual Clinical Symposium on Advances in Skin and Wound Care

Hyatt Regency Dallas
Dallas, TX
(800) 346-7844 ext. 1272
kcousart@lww.com

Wanted! Your Exam Questions!

As noted in the Board of Directors column this month, we always need exam questions! Do your part and submit at least one question to headquarters before December 31, 2001. Questions must:

1. Be multiple choice format
2. Have four possible answers (with the correct answer identified)
3. Have a reference source with each question
4. Be developed so that they require more than just simple regurgitation of the facts
5. Be designed so that participants are required to Recall, Understand, Apply or Evaluate.

E-mail your test questions to woundnet@aawm.org or fax to 202-833-3636.

Regional Chapter Committee Formed

AAWM has developed a new committee for regional chapters. Karen Zulkowski, DNS, RN, CWS is chair of the committee that will promote AAWM and the CWS designation at smaller regional meetings throughout the country.

The committee had its first training in Orlando last month at the 16th Annual Clinical Symposium on Skin and Wound Care's trade show. Two regional committee chairs were trained. Volunteers are also staffing the AAWM booth at the Wound Care Congress in Rhode Island this month.

The committee is always looking for volunteers to join. If you are interested in participating, please call AAWM Headquarters 202-521-0368 or e-mail woundnet@aawm.org. You can also e-mail Karen Zulkowski at karenz@montana.edu.

Use the WOUND CARE FORUM to post your wound care queries to your colleagues? Visit <http://www.aawm.org/forum.html> to participate in the Delphi wound care forum. There are links if you are already a registered Delphi member and an easy format if you want to sign up (it's free!).

Show your AAWM Pride!

Purchase a new AAWM attaché case. Perfect for taking to the office or hospital, the front buckling soft fabric case holds your files/papers and has compartments for your keys, pens and even your cell phone. The bag comes in black and has the AAWM color logo embroidered on the front flap; the cost is \$30. Contact 202-521-0368 for ordering information.



News and Notes

Send us your news updates!

Keep colleagues abreast of your activities and accomplishments (promotions, job changes, published works, etc). Submit information about accomplishments, achievements, networking, and general info to AAWM News. E-mail your news to woundnet@aawm.org

Correction

In Volume 5, Issue 1 of AAWM News the article on "E-mail Etiquette" stated that typing in all caps was interpreted by the reader as yelling. Although this is a popular Internet view, our statement did not take into consideration those individuals that have hemiparesis resulting in the ability to use only one hand. We apologize for the generalization of our statement.

Visit our website: <http://www.aawm.org> AAWM and Board Certification Information | Resources for wound care professionals



AAWMnews

American Academy of Wound Management
1255 Twenty-Third Street NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20037-1174