

## Advanced Wound Care Programs:

A Quick Reference Guide Organized by Sarah DiDomenico, MS, OTR/L, WCC, CHT

Two specialty certifications from separate accreditation boards available to OT's and PT's. Both certifications are interdisciplinary in nature, and open to a variety of other healthcare professionals such as MD's, RN's, PA's, NP's

**1. National Alliance of Wound Care and Ostomy (NAWCO):** <https://www.nawccb.org/wound-care-certification>  
Many different types of Specialty Certificates Available, but the "Wound Care Certified" (WCC) option most applicable for hand therapy.

### Certification Process

- Current OT, PT, OTA or PTA License in good standing in one of the following professions: –2 years full-time or 4 years part-time where wound care was a component of the job duties in the past 5 years
- Complete an accredited Skin and Wound Management Course that has been approved by the NAWOC (varied price and length depending on site, but minimum 20 hours of course work is required)
  - This is waived if you already have a CWS or CWCA certification
- Receive a passing score on the NAWOC WCC Certification Exam (\$380.0 + test center fees)
  - Many Skin and Wound Management Courses include the testing fee with their total cost
- (<https://www.nawccb.org/wound-care-certification>)

### Recertification Process

- Current License in good standing
- Current WCC credential in good standing
- Written Agreement to the NAWCO Code of Ethics
- Full payment of required fees
- Every 5 years: Provide documentation of 60 hours of continuing education or graduation of an accredited Skin and Wound Management Recertification Course that has been approved by the NAWOC
- Very responsive to email inquiries about Hand Therapy CEU's that might apply to wounds. Topics such as amputation, edema/lymphedema and burns usually allowed, but nothing too "rehab specific" (<https://www.nawccb.org/recert-wcc>)

**2. "American Board of Wound Management" "ABWN"** (<http://www.abwmcertified.org/abwm-certified/>)

- Certified Wound Specialist, CWS (Licensed PT or OT Bachelor's Degree or Higher)
  - Certification requirement: 3 or more years of clinical wound care experience, and passing of written exam (\$575 + test center fees)
  - The CWS written exam is 150 computer-based, multiple-choice questions, given over a period of three hours. 125 questions are used to compute the candidate's score, and 25 questions are non-scored pre-test items.
- Certified Wound Care Associate (CWCA) (Associates Degree)
  - Available to Licensed PTA's and OTAs as well as OT/PT's
  - Certification requirement: 3 or more years of clinical wound care experience, and passing of written exam (\$375 + test center fees)
  - CWCA written exam is 120 computer-based, multiple-choice questions, given over a period of two and a half hours. 100 questions are used to compute the candidate's score, and 20 questions are non-scored pre-test items.
- Recertification for both:
  - 6 wound care specific CEU's required each year
  - 10 year renewal by recertification exam (\$575 for CWS, \$375 for CWCA)
- Continuous testing throughout the year available at a credentialed testing center

## **AOTA/APTA Approved Wound Care CEU Options:**

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- ASHT Hand Specific Wound Related Webinars:
  - Management of Hand Burns
  - Wound Care for the Hand Therapist
- Wound Care Education Institute: <https://www.wcei.net/>
  - Annual “Wild On Wounds Conference” (this year virtual)
  - Webinars, blogs, traveling seminars, access to peer reviewed journal on wound care, preparation courses for certification exams
- Symposium on Advanced Woundcare: <https://www.sawc.net/>
  - 2 Conferences per year: Spring and Fall (Spring conference virtual this year)
  - Preparation course for certification exam
- Wounds International: journal access, webcasts, great international consensus documents  
<https://www.woundsinternational.com/>
- Wound CME: <https://www.woundcme.org/>: Online Webinars
- Great Wound Care Content on Medbridge: <https://www.medbridgeeducation.com/>

### **Online Masters program in Wound Healing and Tissue Repair through Cardiff University:**

<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/taught/courses/course/wound-healing-and-tissue-repair-msc-part-time>