

Clinical Specialty  
Mekayla McCauley  
Post-Secondary, #50794  
Gordon Cooper Technology Center- Shawnee, OK  
Certified Wound Care Nurse  
Applying Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Dressing



### **Career Summary**

In 1854, Florence Nightingale, along with thirty-eight nurses, went to a military camp full of British soldiers. Her initial assignment was to provide wound care for the soldiers during the Crimean war. She described it as the most challenging moment of her life. Working in horrific conditions, she treated wounds while working to improve sanitary conditions, food, and nutritional needs. She also established a library to stimulate intellectual learning.

Later, in 1860, Florence Nightingale established the first School of Nursing. Her efforts to change healthcare laid the foundation for the nursing profession that we have today. Additionally, she founded the specialty of wound care nursing. Beginning in January 1978, the ability to obtain a wound care nurse certification was established by the Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing Certification Board. (WOCNCB) It is a not-for-profit professional, international nursing organization certifying more than 9,000 certified wound care registered nurses in the field of wounds. This organization has board-certified nurses working in over 8 different countries such as Canada, Zimbabwe, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and the United States.

The responsibilities of a Wound Care Nurse will include assessing, treating, and creating care plans for patients with complex wounds, ostomies, or continence conditions. Wound care nurses often serve as advocates, wellness educators, and caregivers for their patients, especially for those who frequently require relatively painful procedures or surgeries. There are many different settings in which to practice, including emergency departments, urgent care clinics, inpatient care, outpatient care, long-term care, and home health. Every nurse will see at least one wound during his or

her career; however, wound care nurses exhibit a higher level of knowledge and can act as educators to their peers since they are able to provide interventions for patients with acute or chronic wounds. The field will always change so it is pertinent to be able to keep up to date with newfound knowledge. This career best suits people who have a natural inclination for teaching, positivity, and compassion.

## **Education, Training, Credentialing Professional Association, and Career-related Data and Statistics-**

### **American Board of Wound Management (\$575)**

#### **Requirements for the exam:**

- Registered Nurses, Nurse practitioners, veterinarians, physician assistants, physical therapists, occupational therapists, pharmacists, and registered dietitians are all able to sit for the exam.
- At least 3 years experience in wound care
- You are given three hours to complete the 150 questions.

### **National Alliance of Wound Care (NAWC) (\$300)**

#### **Requirements for the exam:**

- You must have an active and unrestricted license such as RN, LPN/LVN, NP, PA, PT, PTA, OT, OTA, MD, DO, DPM.
- Graduated from a skin and wound management education course or have a current and active CWCN, CWON, CWOCN, or CWS certification from the American Board of Wound Management.
- Completed 120 hours of hands-on clinical training or two years full-time or four years part-time experience with ongoing and active involvement in the care of wound care patients or management, education, or research.
- You are given two hours to complete the 110 questions.

## **Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCNCB) (\$395)**

### **Requirements for the exam:**

- Have a current RN license
- Have a bachelor's degree or higher
- Have completed one of these pathways of education or practice:
  - Traditional
    - Graduated from a WOC Nursing Education Program that is accredited by the WOCN Society within the last 5 years
  - Experience
    - 1500 direct patient clinical care hours must be completed within the previous five years. 375 of those hours must have occurred within three years prior to your application.
- The exam consists of 120 multiple-choice questions that are to be completed in 120 minutes.

### **Statistic Show:**

- **Pros**
  - Autonomy
  - High Demand
  - Regular work hours
- **Cons**
  - Physical unease
  - Exposure to Infective organisms
  - Comparatively low salaries

### Interview Summary-

- **Who**

Kimberly K. Affleck

Wound Care Nurse

Stroud Regional Hospital

15 years in wound care

RN, WCC

- **What made you decide to pursue a career in wound care?** "I started wound care when I was still in my last semester of RN school. The Wound Care nurse asked me if I would like to be a tech for her. I was a floor tech at the time while I was in school and I thought it would be a great opportunity to learn about wound care as I graduated and began my nursing care. I never imagined I would fall in love with it. I think for me, I loved the idea of healing and helping people. I worked in an LTAC on the ICU floor for a year, then was asked to run the wound care program, to which I gladly accepted, and have been doing ever since."
- **How do you prioritize your tasks?** "I have a list of patients I am going to see that day, but my day shifts rapidly based on the type of wounds I have at that time. For instance, if I have a fistula that is leaking that would be my priority."
- **Who is your role model and inspiration?** "I look up to the wound care doctors I work with. For their dedication and compassion to the patient and their families, and not just the wound. I am inspired by the people that I work around day in and day out. Right now especially, it is a very difficult time to be a nurse during COVID."

- **Any advice for students wanting to pursue this career?** Wound care can be very rewarding; however, you can't heal a wound yourself. It required teamwork from multiple modalities and with a strong team, you will have rewarding success in wound care."
- **What is the long-term potential of being a wound care nurse?** "Even in wound care, there are so many different subfields to do. Such as the hospital, clinic, or doctor's office."
- **What qualifications do you look for in someone seeking to work in this position?** "I look for someone who is positive, passionate, willing to learn, and someone who is teachable."
- **Could you tell me about one of your failures and how you learned from the experience?** "I had a patient who was declining in health pretty fast, I didn't discover how bad until I saw her skin. She developed a pressure ulcer. It was heart-wrenching! If I had communicated better with staff about her decline, I may have been able to change her to a more appropriate bed surface and prevent the severity of the wound. I now search out the staff and communicate with them more frequently to prevent this from happening."
- **What is the biggest perk of your job?** "It is so rewarding to know that YOU had a part in saving someone's life or salvaging a limb. That some of these patients look at you as being their last hope to prevent them from an amputation. Of being able to walk again, or prevent them from having to go to a nursing home. To know that you change someone's life, that is the best perk!"

**HOSA CLINICAL SPECIALITY: Work-based Learning Form**

Competitor Name: McKayla McCauley School: Borden Cooper Technology Center  
 HOSA Advisor Name: Secret Howard Contact Info: 405-273-7493 Ext. 2489

Date(s) of Experience	Time Checked-In:	Time Checked-Out:	Total Hours:	Host Signature:
12/2/21	0630	1430	8	Kin Affle
2/18/22	0630	1200	5 1/2	Kin Affle

Thank you for taking this time to host a HOSA-Future Health Professionals Competitor! Please help them improve by providing the following feedback. HOSA members are responsible for this form as part of their award requirements, so please return it to them at the end of their learning experience. Thank you!

Objectives to Evaluate	Exceeds Expectation	Met Expectation	Needs Improvement
Competitor effectively explained HOSA to host	X		
Competitor communicated professionally and effectively to set up experience (email, phone, in person, etc...)	X		
Competitor demonstrated punctuality		Y	
Competitor was professionally/appropriately attired for experience(s)	↓		
Competitor conducted themselves professionally (positive attitude, engagement, prepared with strong questions, not on phone, etc...)	X		
Additional Information (optional advice for this future health professional)			

Host Name: Kimberly Affleck Title: RN WCC  
 Host Signature: Kimberly Affleck Company Name: Stroud Regional



### **Learning Outcomes Summary-**

There are so many different things to learn about wound care. My experience took place at Stroud Regional Hospital in Stroud, Oklahoma. I am a Practical Nursing student at Gordon Cooper Technology Center, and was in a clinical rotation when I got to shadow and assist Kim Affleck RN WCC. The workday started off by checking the census sheet and prioritizing patients that were going to be seen that day. Scheduling the day is important so you are able to keep up with tasks and documentation in a timely manner. The next thing we did was check the charts for any new patients that were being admitted. We then review their chart and orders to know what would need to be done when the patient arrives at the facility. Now all patients' charts were reviewed. It is also very important to review the chart for any new orders from the provider.

I was very fortunate to see many types of dressing changes. I learned how to appropriately measure wounds, and how pictures and documentation were done. I learned about all the different types of wounds, what usually causes the wound, and some interventions that will facilitate proper wound healing. One of the biggest things I learned is how much of a difference bed mattresses can make. For example, taking someone off of a regular bed and onto a sand bed will help facilitate the healing of pressure injuries. It was an overall amazing experience at Stroud Regional Hospital. I look forward to continuing my education in nursing with Kim as a wonderful role model to look up to.

## Clinical Specialty SKILLS CHECKLIST

Competitor# \_\_\_\_\_ Judges Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Reference\*: Title: Fundamentals of Nursing Care Concepts, Connections & Skills

Author(s): Marti, A. Burton, RN, BS David W. Smith, MSN, RN Linda J. May Ludwig, RN, BS, MEd.

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Page numbers: 554-555

Skill: Applying a Negative Pressure Wound Therapy Dressing (Wound VAC)	<b>JUDGE USE ONLY:</b> Comments
1. Review the healthcare provider's orders.	
2. Gather supplies: a. Clean gloves, Scissors, appropriate foam dressing, transparent film, suction track tubing, and ruler.	
3. Identify patients using 2 identifiers. a. Name, DOB, Wristband	
4. Wash hands, Don clean gloves.	
5. Make sure the patient is in a comfortable position and expose only the wound site.	
6. Measure the wound, Observe drainage. a. Length, Width, Depth. b. Remove gloves and wash hands, don clean gloves.	
7. Prepare VAC foam, and cut to the same size as the wound. a. Do not cut foam over the wound or Patient.	
8. Place the foam in the wound making sure that it is in contact with the entire wound base. a. Do not touch intact skin with the foam.	
9. Apply the transparent film to the top of the foam and secure the tubing to the unit. Cut 1 in size hole to attach the tubing.	

<p>10. Apply the wound VAC dressing 1-2in around the wound on healthy tissue, and secure the tubing several inches away from the wound.</p>	
<p>11. Connect the tubing to the VAC system. Ensure the proper suction is obtained  a. Foam should collapse. No air should be heard leaking.</p>	
<p>12. Take off gloves and wash hands.</p>	
<p>13. Ensure the patient is positioned comfortably and safety measures are in place.</p>	
<p>14. Document the procedure appropriately.  a. Date, Time, Dressing Type, Pump Settings, and how the procedure is tolerated.</p>	

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