

# Embracing the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Specialty in the Role of the Advanced Practice Nurse

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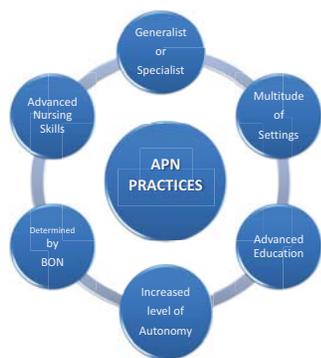
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## Purpose

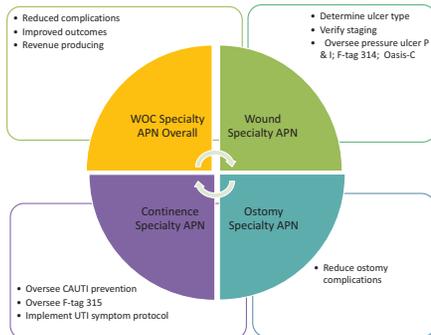
- The role of the advanced practice nurse (APN) is expanding due to physician shortages and aging baby-boomers.
- As APNs progress into different settings, the specialty knowledge of wound, ostomy, and continence (WOC) care becomes more advantageous. Although limited, studies confirm that integrating APNs into specialty practices generally improved access, reduced wait times, enhanced quality of care and proved financially sustainable.<sup>1</sup>
- This poster will focus on the amalgamation of WOC nurse specialty knowledge with APN skills.

## Objectives

1. Distinguish the WOC nurse specialty skills which enhance advanced practice nursing.
2. Discuss key wound, ostomy and/or continence assessment and management skills that have an impact on regulatory issues.
3. Identify the role of the APN in wound, ostomy, and continence care.



## Regulatory Issues



## APN Wound Skills



- Detailed history, ROS
- Comprehensive patient exam
- Focused wound examination
- Verify pressure ulcer staging
- Radiographic & laboratory studies ordered & interpreted
- Procedures (debridement, punch bx, I&D, HBO, etc)
- Consultation with specialists
- Treatment plan ordered and evaluated

## APN Ostomy Skills



- Consultation with specialists & surgeon
- Treatment plan ordered and evaluated
- Detailed history, ROS
- Comprehensive pre-op patient exam with site marking
- Comprehensive post-op patient exam
- Radiographic & laboratory studies ordered & interpreted
- Teaching plan

## APN Continence Skills



- Consultation referral
- Detailed history, ROS
- Comprehensive patient exam
- Focused pelvic examination
- Radiographic & laboratory studies ordered & interpreted
- Procedures (pessary fitting, urodynamics, PTNS, etc)
- Consultation with specialists
- Treatment plan ordered & evaluated

## Outcomes

- Increased longevity combined with the aging baby-boomers and physician shortage has encouraged the APN to provide services that typically were physician owned in the past.
- As the APN role has evolved into higher levels of care and into more settings, the specialty expertise of wound, ostomy and continence care has become more pivotal in providing care.
- Regulatory concerns, direct patient care and increased knowledge of necessity for referral have impact on the APNs' functionality and are enhanced by incorporation of wound, ostomy and/or continence specialty knowledge and skills.

## References

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