

# Ostomy Care Associate Program Overview

Acknowledging the ever growing demand for ostomy care services in all health care settings, Heale Wound Care is able to provide the WOCN Society's ostomy educational program that aims to:

1. Educate and prepare more skilled ostomy care providers across all health care settings.
2. Enhance nurses' ability to provide optimal care for patients with ostomies.
3. Give the non-specialty nurse the ability to provide optimal care for people with ostomies under the direction of a supervising certified ostomy nurse, physician, or nurse practitioner.

**Accreditation** Participants who complete this course will be awarded 27 contact hours (for nurses).

**Course Overview** Over the span of 10-12 weeks: The didactic lesson portion of the course is presented as online lectures that are self-paced Power-point slides/video. Review questions and reference handouts are provided following each lesson for the participant to review. An internet connection is required and it needs to be able to stream videos (You Tube). Additionally there are conference calls and live sessions to be agreed in advance with participants. The course coordinator is a certified wound, ostomy and continence nurse (CWOCN). The location of the next course will be given on request, if inclement weather cancels any live session it will take place the following week.

**1. Initial conference call** with course coordinator, covering (but not limited to):

- Course introduction, overview and schedule
- Competency criteria
- Communication channels
- Review Sample Position Description for a nurse completing the OCA Program
- Quality of life and an ostomy

Lessons 1-9 (self-directed online)

**2. Live 6-8 hour session** with course coordinator, covering (but not limited to):

- Review of online material covered to this point
- Skills demonstration and practice of many pouching systems and products.
- Peri-stomal complications.
- Scenario review

Lessons 10-13 (self-directed, online)

**3. End of term live 6-8 hour session** with course coordinator: Clinical skills competency for:

- Exam Preparation and review
- Clinical Case Scenarios.
- Course competencies measuring, choosing and applying pouching systems

**4. Online tests** Completion of a multiple choice exam and a scenario based exam each allocated 2 hours.

**The course covers:** Anatomy and physiology of the gastro intestinal and urinary systems guidelines for routine care.

The Clinical Skill competencies are:

- Measuring a stoma and pouching
- Management of a night drainage system
- Colostomy irrigation
- Fistula management
- Stabilization of percutaneous tubes

To pass the course and receive the course completion notice with contact hours, participants must:

1. Submit an evaluation of the educational program at the end of the course
2. Complete all online lessons in full
3. Attend all required live sessions with certified ostomy nurse
4. Achieve a score of 70% on the post-test/case scenario test
5. Demonstrate satisfactory clinical skills at the completion of the course

\*There is no partial credit: The participant **must complete the entire educational experience.**

**It is requested that where there is no WOCN working with a participant,** that a licensed independent provider who is involved and interested in ostomy care, act as a supporting provider to the participant for the duration of the course. It is suggested that this person spends 20-30 mins with the participant after course coordinator sessions. The goal of this liaison is to provide an opportunity for discussion through the course and give providers a window into the approach taken and rationales for the standards of care put forward in the program.

**Once a participant successfully** completes the curriculum, this will allow them **to apply for certification as a OCA** to the WOCN-CB (Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Certification Board) when the certification becomes available.

**The cost of the course** from Heale Wound Care is \$975 and includes the online courses, work book and any handouts or products used. Payment in full reserves a place for the next start date.

For more information please visit: <https://www.wocn.org/page/OCAProgram?>

If you have further questions or are interested in being a participant in the Ostomy Care Associate program, review and complete the application then e-mail to [mheale@healewoundcare.com](mailto:mheale@healewoundcare.com) 802-376-8249

or mail to Heale Wound Care PO Box 323. Saxtons River VT 05154

For an overview of the course coordinator Margaret Heale RN MSc CWOCN go to [www.healewoundcare](http://www.healewoundcare)

**Please note** the course is open to all RN's and LPN's and occupational therapists (currently only nurses receive contact hours for this course) Nurse practitioners providing they are not newly qualified (2 years experience is preferred).