

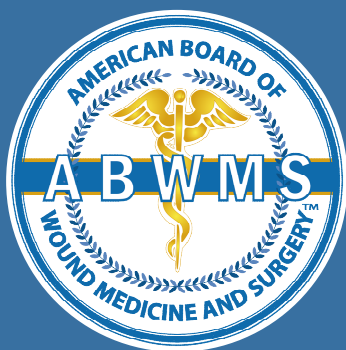
CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION
FOR PHYSICIANS IN
WOUND MEDICINE
AND SURGERY

HANDBOOK FOR CANDIDATES

Testing Periods

Application Deadline: May 1, 2015
Testing Window: June 13-June 27, 2015

Application Deadline: November 2, 2015
Testing Window: December 5-December 19, 2015



PROFESSIONAL TESTING CORPORATION®

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This handbook contains necessary information about the Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery. Please retain it for future reference. Candidates are responsible for reading these instructions carefully. This handbook is subject to change.

CERTIFICATION

The American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery (ABWMS™) endorses the concept of voluntary, periodic certification by examination for physicians engaged in the active practice of wound medicine and surgery. Board certification is highly valued and provides formal recognition of a unique body of knowledge in the science and practice of wound medicine and surgery.

DESIGNATION

TO PROMOTE ENHANCED DELIVERY OF SAFE AND EFFECTIVE CARE THROUGH THE CERTIFICATION OF QUALIFIED PHYSICIANS IN WOUND MEDICINE AND SURGERY:

1. Recognizing formally those individuals who meet eligibility requirements of the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery and pass the Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery.
2. Encouraging continued professional growth in the practice of wound medicine and surgery.
3. Establishing and measuring the level of knowledge required for certification by a wound medicine and surgery physician.
4. Providing a standard of minimum knowledge deemed appropriate for physicians practicing wound medicine and surgery, thereby assisting the employer, public, and health care professionals in the assessment of wound medicine and surgery physicians.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

By the application deadline, candidates must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

1. Be a currently licensed physician in the United States or Canada **[Submit a copy of current license with Application.]**
2. Be certified or board eligible by a relevant primary board (American Board of Medical Specialties [ABMS], American Osteopathic Association [AOA], or equivalent) **[Submit documentation with Application.]**
3. a. Have three years of experience in active practice of wound care documented by institutional Medical Director, Chief of Staff, or Chief Clinical Officer. **[Submit support letter, written on official letterhead, with Application.]**

OR

- b. Be enrolled in or completed an ABMS or AOA approved training program and have completed a dedicated one year wound medicine and surgery fellowship as documented by the fellowship director. **[Submit documentation with Application.]**
4. Complete and file an Application for the Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery.
5. Pay the required fee.

EXAMINATION DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery is developed by the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery (www.abwms.org) with the assistance of the Professional Testing Corporation (PTC) [1350 Broadway – 17th Floor, New York, New York 10018, (212) 356-0660, www.ptcny.com]. The Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery is also administered for the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery by PTC. Questions concerning the examination should be referred to PTC.

ATTAINMENT OF DESIGNATION AND REDESIGNATION

Eligible candidates who pass the Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery are eligible to use the designation Diplomate after their names and will receive certificates from the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery. A registry of designated Diplomates will be maintained by the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery and may be reported in various publications.

The Diplomate designation is recognized for a period of 10 years provided the Diplomate pays an annual registration fee. After the 10 years, the Diplomate must retake and pass the current Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery or meet such alternative requirements as may be mandated by the Committee on Recertification.

REVOCAION OF DESIGNATION

Designation will be revoked for violations of the policies of the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery, including but not limited to:

1. Falsification of an Application.
2. Revocation of any current license to practice medicine.
3. Misrepresentation of designation status.
4. Failure to pay the annual registration fee.

The American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery shall make all decisions regarding revocation of designation.

TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL HANDBOOKS AND APPLICATIONS

Obtain additional Handbooks for Candidates and Applications for the Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery from the **Professional Testing Corporation, 1350 Broadway 17th Floor, New York, New York 10018, (212) 356-0660, www.ptcny.com.**

COMPLETION OF APPLICATION

1. Read and follow the directions on the application and in this handbook. All applications must be completed online. The application can be found on Professional Testing Corporation’s website <https://secure.ptcny.com/apply/>.
2. The online application, all required documentation, and appropriate fees for the examination must be received on or before the appropriate deadline listed in this handbook.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Candidates **MUST** upload the following documentation to their online application:

- _____ Copy of current medical license
- _____ Copy of board certification
- _____ Supporting letter from institutional Medical Director, Chief of Staff, or Chief Clinical Officer attesting to physician’s three years of experience in active practice of wound care, written on official letterhead

FEES

Please note: Fees are **NOT** refundable.

Examination Fee for the Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery (Initial Certification for New Candidates):.....\$750.00

Examination fee for Founding Diplomates who must take the Certification Examination in 2015: \$600.00

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: PROFESSIONAL TESTING CORPORATION

To pay by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express, complete the Credit Card Payment section on the Online Application.

DO NOT SEND CASH.

REFUNDS

There will be no refund of fees. Fees will not be transferred from one testing period to another.

EXAMINATION ADMINISTRATION

The Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery is administered during an established two-week testing period on a daily basis, Monday through Saturday, excluding holidays, at computer-based testing facilities managed by PSI, Inc. PSI has several hundred testing sites in the United States, as well as Canada. Scheduling is done on a first-come, first-serve basis. To find a testing center near you, visit <http://www.ptcny.com/cbt/sites.htm> or call PSI at (800) 733-9267. Please note: Hours and days of availability vary at different centers. **You will not be able to schedule your examination appointment until you have received an Eligibility Notice from PTC.**

ONLINE PRACTICE TEST FOR PHYSICIANS IN WOUND MEDICINE AND SURGERY

WHAT IS IT: A practice test consisting of 50 questions with a testing time of 2 hours taken over the Internet

WHEN: Available now

WHY TAKE IT: To experience taking a computerized exam, to review content included in Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery, and to learn more about question format, style, and level of difficulty.

SCORE REPORT: After completing the online practice test, you will receive an instant score report showing test performance in each of the content areas. The score report does not provide correct answers or indicate which questions were answered correctly and incorrectly. Once the practice test is scored, you cannot return to the test to review the questions.

NOTE: Performance on the online practice test may differ from actual performance on the Certification Examination. Thus, there is no guarantee that taking this practice test will help you pass the Certification Examination. Participants may, however, find it helpful to review content in any areas of weakness indicated on the score reports prior to taking the Certification Examination

CONTENT INCLUDED

- I. Basic Wound Science
- II. Clinical and Diagnostic Evaluation
- III. Treatment
- IV. Risk Factors
- V. Wound Etiology
- VI. Practice Management

FEE: \$100 by credit card

APPLY: Go to www.ptcny.com and select Online Practice Test for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery

FURTHER INFO: Visit www.ptcny.com or call Professional Testing Corporation at 212-356-0660

TESTING SOFTWARE TUTORIAL

A testing tutorial can be viewed, free of charge, online. Please visit www.ptcny.com/cbt/demo.htm. This document can give you an idea about the features of online testing.

SCHEDULING YOUR EXAMINATION APPOINTMENT

Once your Application has been received and processed and your eligibility verified, you will be sent a postcard confirming receipt. Within six (6) weeks prior to the first day of the testing window, you will be sent an Eligibility Notice. **A paper copy of your Eligibility Notice plus your current, government-issued photo identification, such as a driver's license or passport, must be presented in order to gain admission to the testing center.** A candidate not receiving an Eligibility Notice at least three weeks before the beginning of the testing period should contact the Professional Testing Corporation at (212) 356-0660.

The Eligibility Notice will indicate where to call to schedule your examination appointment as well as the dates during which testing is available. Appointment times are first-come, first-serve, so schedule your appointment as soon as you receive your Eligibility Notice in order to maximize your chance of testing at your preferred location and on your preferred date.

After you make your test appointment, PSI will send you a confirmation email with the date, time, and location of your examination. Please check this confirmation carefully for the correct date, time, and location. Contact PSI at (800) 733-9267 if you do not receive this email confirmation or if there is a mistake with your appointment.

- **It is the candidate's responsibility to call PSI to schedule the exam appointment.**
- **It is highly recommended that each candidate become familiar with the testing site.**
- **Arrival at the testing site at the appointed time is the responsibility of the candidate. Please plan for weather, traffic, parking, and any security requirements that are specific to the testing location. Late arrival may prevent you from testing.**

SPECIAL TEST CENTERS OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES AND PARTS OF CANADA

It may be possible to establish a special testing center to take a paper and pencil examination in your own country for an additional fee of \$150. The Special Testing Center Request Form, available from www.ptcny.com, must be uploaded with your application and fees, specifying your preferred city and country, and must be received eight weeks before the testing period begins. If there are no computer test centers in your province in Canada, you can follow this same procedure or travel to the closest computerized testing center in the United States to take the exam.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Special testing arrangements will be made for individuals with special needs. Submit the Application, examination fee, and a completed and signed Request for Special Accommodations Form, available from www.ptcny.com or by calling PTC at (212) 356-0660. Requests for individuals with special testing needs must be received at least EIGHT weeks before the testing period begins.

Please notify PTC at least two weeks prior to your examination appointment if you need to bring a service dog, medicine, food, or beverages necessary for a medical condition with you to the testing center.

CHANGING YOUR EXAMINATION APPOINTMENT

If you need to cancel your examination appointment or reschedule to a different date within the two-week testing period, you must contact PSI at (800) 733-9267 no later than noon, Eastern Standard Time, of the second business day PRIOR to your scheduled appointment. **Please note: PSI does not have the authority to authorize refunds or transfers to another testing period.** If you fail to arrive for your appointment or cancel without giving the required notice, you will forfeit your testing fee.

RULES FOR THE EXAMINATION

1. Electronic devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, laptop computers, tablets, Bluetooth type devices, MP3 players such as iPods, cameras, or voice recorders cannot be used during the examination.
2. No books, papers, or reference materials may be taken into or removed from the testing room.
3. Simple, nonprogrammable calculators are permitted with the exception of calculators as part of cellular phones, Blackberries, etc. A calculator is also available on screen if needed.
4. No questions concerning content of the examination may be asked during the examination session. The candidate should read carefully the directions that are provided on screen at the beginning of the examination session.
5. Candidates are prohibited from leaving the testing room while their examination is in session, with the sole exception of going to the restroom.

Violation of any of the rules listed above may lead to forfeiture of fees, dismissal from testing room, and cancellation of your test scores.

REPORT OF RESULTS

Candidates will be notified in writing by the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery within four weeks of the close of the testing window whether they have passed or failed the examination. Scores on the major areas of the examination and on the total examination will be reported. Successful candidates will also receive certificates from the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery.

REEXAMINATION

The Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery may be taken as often as desired upon filing of a new Application and fee. There is no limit to the number of times the examination may be repeated.

CONFIDENTIALITY

1. The American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery will release the individual test scores ONLY to the individual candidate.
2. Any questions concerning test results should be referred to the Professional Testing Corporation at (212) 356-0660.

CONTENT OF EXAMINATION

1. The Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery is a computer-based examination composed of a maximum of 200 multiple-choice, objective questions with a total testing time of four (4) hours.
2. The content for the examination is described in the Content Outline on page 8.
3. The questions for the examination are obtained from individuals with expertise in wound medicine and surgery and are reviewed for construction, accuracy, and appropriateness by the American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery.
4. The American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery prepares the examination with the advice and assistance of the Professional Testing Corporation.
5. The Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery will be weighted in approximately the following manner:

I.	Basic Wound Science	10%
II.	Clinical and Diagnostic Evaluation	20%
III.	Treatment.....	30%
IV.	Risk Factors	10%
V.	Wound Etiology.....	25%
VI.	Practice Management.....	5%

CONTENT OUTLINE

I. Basic Wound Science

- A. Vascular and Skin Anatomy and Function
- B. Physiology of Wound Healing
- C. Pathology
- D. Pathophysiology of Wounds
- E. Physiology of Oxygen in Wound Healing
- F. Embryology, Genetics, and Development
- G. Epidemiology

II. Clinical and Diagnostic Evaluation

- A. History and Physical
- B. Wound Evaluation
 - 1. Wound Bed
 - 2. Wound Edge
 - 3. Slough and Eschar
 - 4. Exudate
 - 5. Undermining and Tunneling
 - 6. Periwound Skin
 - 7. Wagner Scale
 - 8. University of Texas
 - 9. NPUAP
 - 10. Rule of Nines
 - 11. Classification of Osteomyelitis
 - 12. Laboratory Studies
 - 13. Wound Measurement
- C. Diagnostic Imaging
 - 1. Plain Film
 - 2. CT
 - 3. MRI/MRA
 - 4. Ultrasound
 - 5. Nuclear
 - 6. Invasive Vascular Testing
- D. Swab and Tissue Cultures
- E. Noninvasive Testing
 - 1. Oxygen Testing
 - 2. Vascular Testing
- F. Referral Criteria
 - 1. Burns
 - 2. HBO
 - 3. Vascular
 - 4. ENT
 - 5. Endocrine
- G. Evaluation for Protective Sensation
- H. Biopsy
 - 1. Infection
 - 2. Malignancy

III. Treatment

- A. Medical Therapy
 - 1. Pharmacologic
 - 2. Pain Management
 - 3. Diabetes Management
 - 4. Nutrition Management
- B. Topical Wound Therapy
 - 1. Enzymatic Debridement
 - 2. Topical Anti-infectives
 - 3. Hydrogels

4. Alginates
5. Hydrocolloids
6. Honey
7. Foam
8. Cleansers
- C. Surgical Therapy
 1. Surgical Debridement
 2. Bioburden and Biofilm
 3. Skin Grafts and Flaps
 4. Incision and Drainage
 5. Amputation
 6. Delayed Primary Closure
 7. Surgical Emergencies
 8. Foreign Body
 9. Revascularization Options
- D. Infection Management
 1. Antibiotic Therapy
 2. Isolation Indications
 3. Topical Antimicrobial
- E. Advanced Therapies
 1. Collagen Based Products
 2. Allografts and Xenografts
 3. Bioengineered Skin Substitutes (Dermagraft/Apligraf)
 4. Growth Factors (Becaplermin, PRP)
 5. Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT)
 6. Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy
 7. E-Stim
 8. Low-Frequency Ultrasound
 9. Regenerative Medicine
- F. Compression Therapy
- G. Offloading Techniques
- H. Side Effects

IV. Risk Factors

- A. Diabetes
- B. Obesity
- C. Neuropathy
- D. Smoking
- E. Immunosuppressive Agents
- F. Malnutrition
- G. Renal Failure
- H. Behavioral Issues
- I. Wound Chronicity
- J. Arteriosclerosis
- K. Aging
- L. Pharmacologic
- M. Colonization
- N. Risk Prevention

V. Wound Etiology

- A. Diabetic Foot Ulcer
 1. Charcot
 2. Neuropathic
- B. Venous Leg Ulcers
 1. Venous Hypertension and Reflux
 2. Post-phlebotic Syndrome
 3. Fibrin Cuff Theory
 4. Hemosiderin Deposition
- C. Arterial Ulcers

- D. Pressure Ulcers
 - 1. Pressure
 - 2. Shear
 - 3. Friction
 - 4. Moisture
 - 5. Staging
 - 6. Prevention
- E. Neoplastic Ulcers
- F. Infectious
- G. Autoimmune
- H. Traumatic
- I. Burn
- J. Lymphatic
- K. Factitious
- L. Insect and Animal Bites
- M. Atypical Wounds
- N. Institutionally Acquired
- O. Osteomyelitis

VI. Practice Management

- A. Medical Ethics and Palliative Care
- B. Confidentiality
- C. Legal Issues
- D. Documentation
- E. Adherence/Compliance Issues
- F. Clinical Trials

SAMPLE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS

In the following questions, choose the one best answer.

-
1. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is **CONTRAINDICATED** in patients who have
1. pulmonary embolism.
 2. arterial gas embolism.
 3. untreated pneumothorax.
 4. history of seizure disorder.
-
2. Which of the following dressings is **NOT** safe in the hyperbaric environment?
1. Hydrogel
 2. Cotton gauze
 3. Calcium alginate dressing
 4. Petroleum based dressing
-
3. The remodeling phase of wound healing is most likely to be identified by
1. erythema.
 2. hemostasis.
 3. scar formation.
 4. collagen formation.
-
4. Which of the following pathophysiologies is common to many types of chronic wounds?
1. Ischemia-reperfusion
 2. Autoimmune disease
 3. Nitric oxide synthetase deficit
 4. Superoxide dismutase deficiency

CORRECT ANSWERS TO SAMPLE QUESTIONS

1. **3** 2. **4**; 3. **3**; 4. **1**

REFERENCES

The following references may be of some help in preparing for the examination. The list does not attempt to include all acceptable references nor is it suggested that the Certification Examination for Physicians in Wound Medicine and Surgery is necessarily based on these references. The American Board of Wound Medicine and Surgery does not endorse any reference or resource as an official study guide for the certification examination.

Clinics in Plastic Surgery, Elsevier

Hyperbaric Medicine Practice, Third Edition, Kindwall and Whelan, Best Publishing Company, 2008

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Indications, 12th Edition, Gesell, The Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, 2008

MasterMinding Wounds, First Edition, Straus, Aksemov and Miller, Best Publishing Company, 2010

Schwartz's Principles of Surgery, Ninth Edition, Brunicki et.al., McGraw-Hill Professional, 2009

Skin and Wound Care, Sixth Edition, Hess, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2007

The Epidermis in Wound Healing, Rovee and Maibach, CRC Press, 2004

Wound Care, Fourth Edition, Sussman and Bates-Jensen, Aspen Publishers, 2012

Wound Care Essentials, Third Edition, Baronowski and Ayello, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2011

Wound Care Made Incredibly Simple, Second Edition, Burghardt, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2006

Wound Care Practice, Second Edition, Sheffield, Smith and Fife, Best Publishing Company, 2007

