INFOGRAPHIC

REDISCOVERING OUR ROOTS TO EMBRACE A BRIGHT FUTURE

The Legacy of Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing and the WOCN® Society

Journey through the remarkable history of wound, ostomy, and continence nursing and the WOCN® Society. This timeline unfolds the roots of our profession, highlighting pivotal milestones that have shaped our community.

1958

World's First Ostomy Nurse

Norma Gill, a pioneer, began working at the Cleveland Clinic, becoming the first professional Enterostomal Therapist (ET).

1961

First-Ever Ostomy Education Program Established

Norma Gill and Rupert Turnbull, MD opened the first School of Enterestomal Therapy at the Cleveland Clinic, what we would refer to today as a WOC Nursing Education Program (WOCNEP).

1968

Inaugural Annual Meeting

The first professional specialty organization, the North American Association of Enterostomal Therapy, was established and held its first annual meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, with 21 attendees!

This Association was later known as the International Association for Enterostomal Therapy (IAET) and is now what you know as the WOCN Society!

WOCN® Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society®

1972

Original WOC Nursing Journal

IAET Quarterly became the official journal for the ET profession. Now, the *Journal of Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nursing (JWOCN®)* is the premier journal for WOC practice and research.

1979

Very First Certification

The very first Board Certification Exam is developed.

1982

Scope of Practice Evolves

The scope of practice expanded to wounds and urinary and fecal continence disorders. The National Accreditation Board of the American Nurses Association accredited the IAET.

1985

RN Licensure Becomes Required

RN licensure became required for entry into an Enterostomal Therapy nursing education program.

1992

IAET Evolves Into the WOCN Society

The IAET officially evolved into the WOCN Society. Today, we're the largest and most recognized professional nursing community dedicated to advancing the practice and delivery of WOC care.

2005

The WOCN Society Joins ANA

WOCN joined the ANA as an organizational affiliate with 14 other specialty nursing organizations, and the WOC nursing specialty became recognized by the ANA.

2008

40 Years for the Annual Conference

The WOCN Society celebrated forty years of the WOCN annual conference, known around the world as WOCNext.

2018

50 Years for the WOCN Society

The WOCN Society celebrated its fiftieth anniversary and 50th Annual Conference. Established in 1968, WOCN was originally named the North American Association of Enterostomal Therapy.

2019

The WOCN Society Annual Conference is Rebranded

After celebrating the 50th Annual Conference in 2018, the WOCN Society rebranded their Annual Conference to WOCNext. WOCNext is the only educational event of the year hosted by healthcare professionals for healthcare professionals that delivers all the newest evidence-based education, value-packed professional development, and an inclusive experience that unlocks the power of community. Come for the research. Stay for the conversations. Leave knowing what's WOCNext.

2020

First Virtual-Only Annual Conference

The WOCN Society hosted it's first ever virtual-only annual conference, WOCNext 2020: Reimagined. Initially a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the virtual component remains a crucial event feature of WOCNext annually.

2022

ICD-10-CM Codes

The WOCN Society obtained approval on its application for new ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes for Irritant Contact Dermatitis by the ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee.

2023

Fellow Program Established

The WOCN Society initiated the WOCN Fellow Program in June 2023, recognizing nursing excellence with its inaugural class induction. This stands as the highest honor awarded by the WOCN Society.

2023

Quality Improvement Project

The WOCN Society launched The Value of a WOC Nurse: A WOCN® Quality Improvement Project to benchmark its quality measure rates against national averages to prove the value of WOC nursing.

HONORING OUR PAST, SHAPING OUR FUTURE

From humble beginnings with Norma Gill and Dr. Rupert Turnbull to a global community of nearly 6,000 members, the WOCN Society has left an indelible mark on the medical field. As we journey through this rich history, we're reminded of our roots and rekindle the passion to continue making a difference, just as those early pioneers did. In embracing our history, we pave the way for an even brighter future in wound, ostomy, and continence nursing.

ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

The Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. The Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society is approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP 15115.

© 2023 All rights reserved. Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society™.