**DID YOU KNOW...** **WOUND, OSTOMY AND CONTINENCE (WOC) NURSES IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOMES RESULTING IN COST-EFFECTIVE HEALTH CARE**

In the largest study to date, which covered 400,000 episodes of care in 785 home health care (HHC) agencies, results showed home health care agencies with a WOC nurse had significantly better outcomes for both improvement and stabilization of wounds, urinary and bowel incontinence, and urinary tract infections when compared to HHC agencies without a WOC nurse.

Employers, patients, and other health care professionals can all benefit from the presence of a WOC nurse on staff.

WOC nursing principles and care strategies are applied to all care settings.

With a WOC nurse on staff, patients in home health care facilities were:
- Nearly twice as likely to have improvement in pressure ulcers
- 20% more likely to have improvement in lower extremity ulcers
- 40% more likely to have improvement in surgical wounds
- 40% more likely to have improvement in urinary incontinence
- 14% more likely to have improvement in bowel incontinence

A WOC nurse serves as clinical expert, educator, consultant, researcher, and administrator.

Employers benefit from having a certified WOC nurse on staff:
- Help to shorten lengths of stay
- Prevent readmissions in hospital settings
- Ensure that health care institutions get the maximum payment for patients using Medicare and Medicaid services

WOC nurses are experienced, baccalaureate-prepared registered nurses.

- They attend WOCN-accredited wound, ostomy and continence nursing education programs (WOCNEPs)
- They are board certified from the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Certification Board (WOCN CB)

The difference is in the evidence.

Learn more about certified wound, ostomy and continence nurses at wocn.org and wocncb.org.