WHAT DO WOC NURSES MEAN TO YOU?

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Patients are at the core of the wound, ostomy and continence (WOC) nursing specialty. The WOC nurse blends art and science to deliver evidence-based, hands-on care to improve patient outcomes. Patients dealing with chronic wounds, ostomy or incontinence issues can count on the WOC nurse to provide patients with intensive physical and emotional care, as well as continued support to help patients return to their normal lives. WOC nurses improve patient care across all settings through advocacy, patient and family education, research and the achievement of positive clinical outcomes (WOCN Society, 2010).

WOC nursing is one of the few specialties recognized by the American Nurses Association (ANA). ANA’s recognition of the scope and standards of practice for WOC nursing as a specialty signifies that WOC nursing adheres to the high standards cultivated by the ANA (WOCN Society, 2010).

I was so very fortunate to have Eileen as my WOC nurse and now as the dear friend that she has become to me. With her more-than-competent nursing skills and her cheerful and bubbly personality, she is indeed an asset to her profession. Every hospital should have a WOC nurse like Eileen on their staff to help patients like myself who have so much to learn about caring for their new colostomy. I thank God every day for sending Eileen McCann to me!

— ANNE S.
As one who found himself facing health issues and life altering changes that needed careful consideration, when I needed calm reassurance and knowledgeable and caring support, that support came in the form of two wonderful WOC specialty nurses. Frankly, I could not have been treated better by my surgeon and his support staff, but the ability to spend time with these two fine professional nurses enabled me to learn what I needed to become self-sufficient and confident in my abilities to move forward. Because of them, living with a stoma is as natural as my life was prior to my surgery. I have the opportunity to undergo surgeries to reverse and reconnect, but honestly, I don’t believe that is necessary to enhance the quality of my life.

~THOMAS S.

WOC NURSES ARE devoted TO THEIR PATIENTS
The dedicated, compassionate care of the WOC nurse garners ongoing praise from patients. Patients honor WOC nurses for the care, kindness, guidance and support they provide. Patients suffering from wounds, ostomies and incontinence regard WOC nurses as lifesavers. WOC nurses take pride in improving the lives of patients and want their patients to know:
Evidence has shown that patients who were cared for by WOC nurses had significantly better outcomes in terms of healing rates and/or costs of care, in comparison to other nurses (Westra et al., 2013). A recent study found that patients in home health care agencies with a WOC nurse were:

- Nearly twice as likely to have improvement in pressure injuries.
- 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.
- 40% more likely to have improvement in bowel incontinence.

(Westra et al., 2013)

REFERENCES