

Canadian Education Programs in Wound Management



The standard initial education most health providers receive regarding wound prevention and management is generally not sufficient to address key issues in the field. Therefore, ongoing professional development is essential for all clinicians practising in this complex area. Across Canada, various organizations provide wound education for different levels of practitioner, from novice to expert, in the form of courses, single- and multi-day events, and degrees. Below is a sample some professional development programs currently available.

Wounds Canada

Wounds Canada (WC) recently developed a national wound education framework to enhance the knowledge, skills, judgement, leadership and research abilities of a range of stakeholders in the area of wound prevention and care, including frontline practitioners (doctors, nurses, allied health professionals), policy makers, members of the media, patients and caregivers. Clinician education ranges from novice through expert. An evidence-informed and integrated team approach forms the foundation of all education programs.

Current onsite workshops available for health professionals include the following:

- Changing Practice Through Applied Knowledge (two days; novice health-care professionals [HCPs])
- Advances for the Management of Diabetic Foot Complications (one day; HCPs with intermediate-level wound knowledge)

- Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) (one day; primary care and specialist MDs)
- Hands-on skills-building workshops held in conjunction with each WC fall conference and other non-WC conferences around the country (two to three hours; HCPs at all levels)

A **suite of online courses** is in development and will be announced soon.

The **annual spring and fall conferences** offer a total of six days of learning. Attendees to both events have up to 100 sessions to choose from on a variety of topics.

For individuals interested in self-directed learning, the **Wounds Canada website** (www.woundscanada.ca) provides clinicians, patients and decision makers with downloadable resources—including some in multiple languages—that will fulfill their educational needs.

For more information, contact Crystal McCallum, Manager, Education, at crystal.mccallum@woundscanada.ca.

Canadian Association for Enterostomal Therapy (CAET)

The CAET offers specialized online courses and programs in the tri-specialty of wound, ostomy and continence care.

ET Nurse Education Program (ETNEP)

This is a year-long (or slightly longer) program for baccalaureate-prepared registered nurses with a minimum of two years of clinical experience. Upon successful completion, the individual will be recognized as a specialist in the tri-specialty of enterostomal therapy nursing. There are two entries dates per year: September and January. It is offered in French and English. Content is online, and clinical placements are onsite.

Acceptance into the ETNEP program is competitive. Priority may be given to applicants with a guaranteed ET nursing job that is dependent upon graduation from the ETNEP program.

Knowledge to Practice Competency Builders: Spotlight on Best Practice Skin and Wound Management Across the Spectrum

The CAET Bow Valley Spotlight Program is a series of online skin and wound management theory courses offered by CAET in collaboration with Bow Valley College, Calgary, Alberta. Aimed at generalist nurses, the program includes 12 weeks of online theory and an optional

two-day skills lab at Bow Valley College. For more information, explore the CAET Academy website at www.caetacademy.ca. Contact Virginia McNaughton, Director, CAET Academy, director@caetacademy.ca, to discuss your application.

International Interprofessional Wound Care Course (IIWCC-CAN)

The IIWCC provides a comprehensive educational experience to develop wound care specialists and to translate their knowledge into practice. The course takes nine months to complete and is offered in partnership with the University of Toronto. The IIWCC consists of the following:

- two four-day residential weekends (in Toronto)
- 14 self-study modules (nine required: five faculty-chosen and four student-chosen)
- a selective project related to course content that translates new knowledge into the workplace; this is presented to a classmate along with a short written report.

The IIWCC is designed for wound care practitioners with some prior education and experience.

Physicians, nurses and allied health professionals in the wound care field are welcome.

The program offers the following benefits for participants:

- information and skills needed to become integrated, effective

members of interprofessional teams

- discussion of common skin and wound care topics
- hands-on learning at residential weekends with a direct patient day to work in teams
- opportunity to connect with key international opinion leaders
- opportunity to network with colleagues
- University of Toronto Certificate of Completion for family physicians and specialists, CME credits for School of Graduate Studies qualifying students, a course credit toward the Master of Science in Community Health (MScCH) Program at University of Toronto

For more information, visit www.woundpedia.com or email iiwccmodules@gmail.com.

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) offers an annual week-long educational event every February in Niagara Falls, Ontario, called Minding the Gap: Wound Care Institute. The institute is tailored to nurses and health-care providers who are interested in wound care best practices. The mission is to reduce the physiological, psychological and fiscal burden of wounds throughout Ontario.

There are two streams: clinical and program planning. The clinical stream focuses on strategies to support wound prevention,

assessment and management to build clinical capacity in wound care.

Often participants in the clinical stream continue on to the planning stream, which focuses on implementing wound care best practices, monitoring knowledge uptake and sustaining change to build clinical and leadership capacity in wound care.

The program is an excellent professional development opportunity for novice and experienced professionals who work in any health-care setting. Participants have the opportunity to learn from wound care experts from various disciplines—including nursing, nutrition and chiropody—gain hands-on skills in wound care and network with colleagues in the field.

For more information please visit <http://rnao.ca/events>.

Master of Clinical Science in Wound Healing, Western University (MCISc-WH)

The MCISc Program in Wound Healing was established in 2007 to concurrently develop advanced clinical practice and research skills in the specialized field of wound care. Beginning each September, it is a one-year, course-based graduate program. This interprofessional program is delivered via interactive online learning modules combined with three onsite one-to three-week residency periods (total six weeks), during which lectures and clinical skills labs occur on Western University's campus. Students must successfully complete 100 clinical mentorship hours, pass a final comprehensive clinical skills exam and complete a research project.

Using an innovative web-based

platform, the program taps into the expertise of more than 40 renowned faculty members located around the world and representing 10 professions/disciplines. After 10 successful years, 122 future leaders of wound care have graduated with a master's degree in wound healing. Exit surveys reveal a 96.5 per cent completion rate and a 98.5 per cent satisfaction rating, and 76 per cent of students change or acquire new jobs or positions after graduating.

Eligible are experienced clinicians (minimum two years post graduate) licensed to practise in a field related to wound care (RN, OT, PT, MD, D.Chir). Applications must be submitted online before May 1 via www.westernu.ca/fhs/pt. Enrollment is limited to 20 per year.

For more information, contact Cheryl at charding@uwo.ca.

Do you have a taste for Knowledge?

Attend the largest wound conference in Canada

This will be a four-day multi-disciplinary continuing education event designed to support health-care professionals who work with patients with wounds or who are at risk for developing wounds. Find out more: www.woundscanada.ca.

Mississauga, ON • November 16–19, 2017



Mississauga 2017

Fall Conference