

## WCI Spotlight

# Holistic Approach to Diabetic Foot Offloading: Knowledge and Skills

## (A108MWS)

Consisting of two online modules, one full-day on-site skills lab and an interactive webinar (completed in the order listed), the Holistic Approach to Diabetic Foot Offloading: Knowledge and Skills program is based on concepts in Wounds Canada's *Best Practice Recommendations for the Prevention and Management of Diabetic Foot Ulcers*.

This program, developed and delivered by national experts in diabetic foot prevention and care, is aimed at nurses, allied health professionals and physicians who self-identify as advanced beginner related to their ability to identify people living with diabetes who require offloading and to select, apply and evaluate the effectiveness of offloading devices.

The most popular of all Wounds Canada Institute (WCI) offerings that contain a skills lab component, this program allows students—under the guidance of expert faculty—to learn about and practise skills relevant to the prevention and treatment of diabetic foot ulcers.

Practical skills reviewed during the skills lab component include diabetic foot screening and risk stratification, assessment of footwear and gait, application and use of removable cast walkers and surgical shoes/half shoes, and the application, use and removal of total contact casts.

Following the skills lab, students are expected to seek out mentorship opportunities in their workplaces to perfect their skills and attain proficiency.

Arlene, a registered nurse working in acute care in Hamilton, ON, said in her evaluation, "It is a well-organized event. Instructors are know-

### What Programs Are Right for You?

To find out more about the Holistic Approach to Diabetic Foot Offloading: Knowledge and Skills program and other Wounds Canada Institute (WCI) programs, visit the WCI website at [www.woundscanadainstitute.ca](http://www.woundscanadainstitute.ca).

ledgeable, and the skills in all areas of the presentation are excellent."

Following the skills lab, a wrap-up webinar invites

It is an excellent program. If you do not have the experience in offloading, etc., you will learn lots. If you do have the experience, you will still learn lots." —Recent program attendee



students to discuss with faculty the challenges they faced, and strategies used in implementing the acquired knowledge and skills in their everyday practice and, for some, at an organizational level. Wendy, a nurse practitioner from a long-term care facility in Milverton, ON, stated in her evaluation, "Excellent program with excellent speakers – top notch."

When asked what advice she would give to another health-

care professional considering taking this program, Dianne, an RN working for a home-care agency in Owen Sound, ON,

wrote, "Go for it. Full of useful tools for assessments (and) the modules are full of good education materials." 🇨🇦

### Skills Lab Coming Up in Niagara Falls in October

The Skills Lab for Offloading the Diabetic Foot, part of the Holistic Approach to Diabetic Foot Offloading: Knowledge and Skills program, will be offered next in Niagara Falls, ON, prior to the 2019 Wounds Canada fall conference. Join our expert faculty on October 2 to practise your skills.

For more information on the Niagara Falls skills lab, [click here](#).

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As the leading wound care organization in Canada we provide you, our member, with the information and tools to help advance your career, your practice and your team. Your membership provides you with:

- Exclusive access to members-only sections (coming soon) and quarterly newsletters
- Discounts on our **professional educational programs**; for example, save \$40 on this year's fall conference registration fee
- Access to our organizational updates that outline how your membership supports our mission
- The opportunity to become involved as a regional representative and/or board member
- Networking opportunities with other regional, national and international health professionals
- Discounts on wound care tools and resources sold in our **eBoutique**
- Complimentary subscription to *Wound Care Canada*

Find out more about us at [www.woundscanada.ca](http://www.woundscanada.ca).