المجلس التمريضي الأردني
Jordanian Nursing Council

Wound Care Nursing:
Scope of Practice, Professional Standards, Competencies, and Indicators

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The Jordanian Nursing Council

The Jordanian Nursing Council (JNC) is a national regulatory institution for nursing and midwifery in Jordan. The JNC is governed by a board headed by her Royal Highness Princess Muna Al Hussein as president of the council. The board is comprised of 14 key representatives of the healthcare institutions and through regulating and governing the nursing profession in education, practice, and research.

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Acronyms

JNC	Jordanian Nursing Council
JNMC	Jordan Nurses and Midwives Council
RN	Registered nurse
WCANS	Wound care advanced nurse specialist
WCN	Wound care nurse
WCNS	Wound care nurse specialists

Introduction

This document includes the scope of practice, nursing standards, and competencies for wound care nursing (WCN) in Jordan. This document was developed by the Jordanian Nursing Council (JNC) and partners to ensure quality services and safe practice. JNC aims to enhance nursing services in Jordan to protect the public and promote their health through a sound regulatory system that includes laws, bylaws, standards, and policies for nursing. Wound care practice is one of the main areas of concern and interest for JNC. Extensive effort was made to strengthen the role of wound care nursing in Jordan. This was done in collaboration with JNC partners to improve wound care specialty

Methodology

Wound care nursing is a dynamic and important area of practice for wound care nurses, which is implemented in different roles including education, research, and practice. National Professional Standards and competencies for Wound Care Nurses were developed by reviewing the best possible evidence from various sources:

1. International models and frameworks on WCN standards;
2. Through constant consultations with wound care leaders and experts; and
3. Feedback provided by advance practice wound care nurses in a variety of clinical settings.

JNC also developed principles of assessment to help wound care nurses implement these standards and utilize them as a tool to assess performance.

Purpose of the Standards

The purpose of this document is to improve wound care services and wound care outcomes for individuals suffering from wounds.

These standards are based on the standards of practice of the registered nurse (RN). Collectively these standards illuminate what wound care nurses do, help nurses at different levels understand their professional responsibilities, maintain their own professional development, enhance and change policies and practices, and resolve professional practice problems. These standards will inform and guide continuing education programs to advance professional development of wound care nurse specialists (WCNS).

Domains of the Standards

The JNC Professional Standards for WCNS and wound care advanced nurse specialists (WCANS) are divided into two domains: (a) professional standards and (b) practice standards. Professional standards are the core competency standards by which nurse performance is assessed to obtain and retain registration and certification. Practice standards are statements about levels of performance that WCNs are required to achieve in their practice. The professional standards for wound care nursing contain 10 main standards relating to ethics, professional development, evidence-based practice and research, quality of practice, communication, collaboration, environmental health and safety, health promotion and prevention, professional leadership and resource utilization, and quality improvement. The practice standards consist of one standard—provision of client-centered care—and six sub-standards: assessment, identification of issues/problems or trends, outcome identification, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

Framework for Wound Care Nursing in Jordan

1. **Scope of Practice**

   Wound care specialty is multidimensional, interdependent, and evidence-based specialized areas of nursing practice that incorporates a unique body of knowledge to provide comprehensive and quality wound care to clients across their lifespan and in a wide variety of healthcare settings. WCNs focus on prevention, health maintenance, therapeutic intervention, and rehabilitative nursing care to clients with integumentary disorders and other skin-related complications of gastrointestinal and genitourinary health problems.

   Wound care nursing is an area of specialty practice within the framework of nursing which strives to advance the healthcare and quality of life of all affected clients. WCNs assume different roles in addition to the essential role as direct care providers. They can work as managers, administrators, educators, researchers, clinical experts, and consultants.

   Levels of Wound Care Nursing Practice

   Jordanian wound care nurses are RNs who have studied nursing academically and are licensed to practice in Jordan. Levels of practice are differentiated by

educational preparation, complexity of clinical practice, and performance of certain nursing duties and functions. According to the JNC bylaw, wound care nurses are classified at two levels: WCNS and WCANS.

Qualifications

The Wound Care Nurse Specialist has:

- Obtained a university degree (bachelor's degree) in nursing or its equivalent from an accredited university or educational institution;
- Obtained a diploma degree or equivalent in wound care nursing;
- Registered with the Jordan Nurses and Midwives Council (JNMC) and licensed to practice under the Jordanian Public Health Law; and
- Passed the JNC evaluation mandate according to the provisions of the bylaw of specialization.

The Wound Care Advanced Nurse Specialist has:

- Registered with JNMC and is licensed according to the provisions of the Jordanian Public Health Law
- Obtained at least a master's degree from an accredited university or educational institution in a field of specialty listed and recognized by JNC
- Fulfilled the specific standards for granting certifications for this professional level issued by JNC to confirm specialist standing.

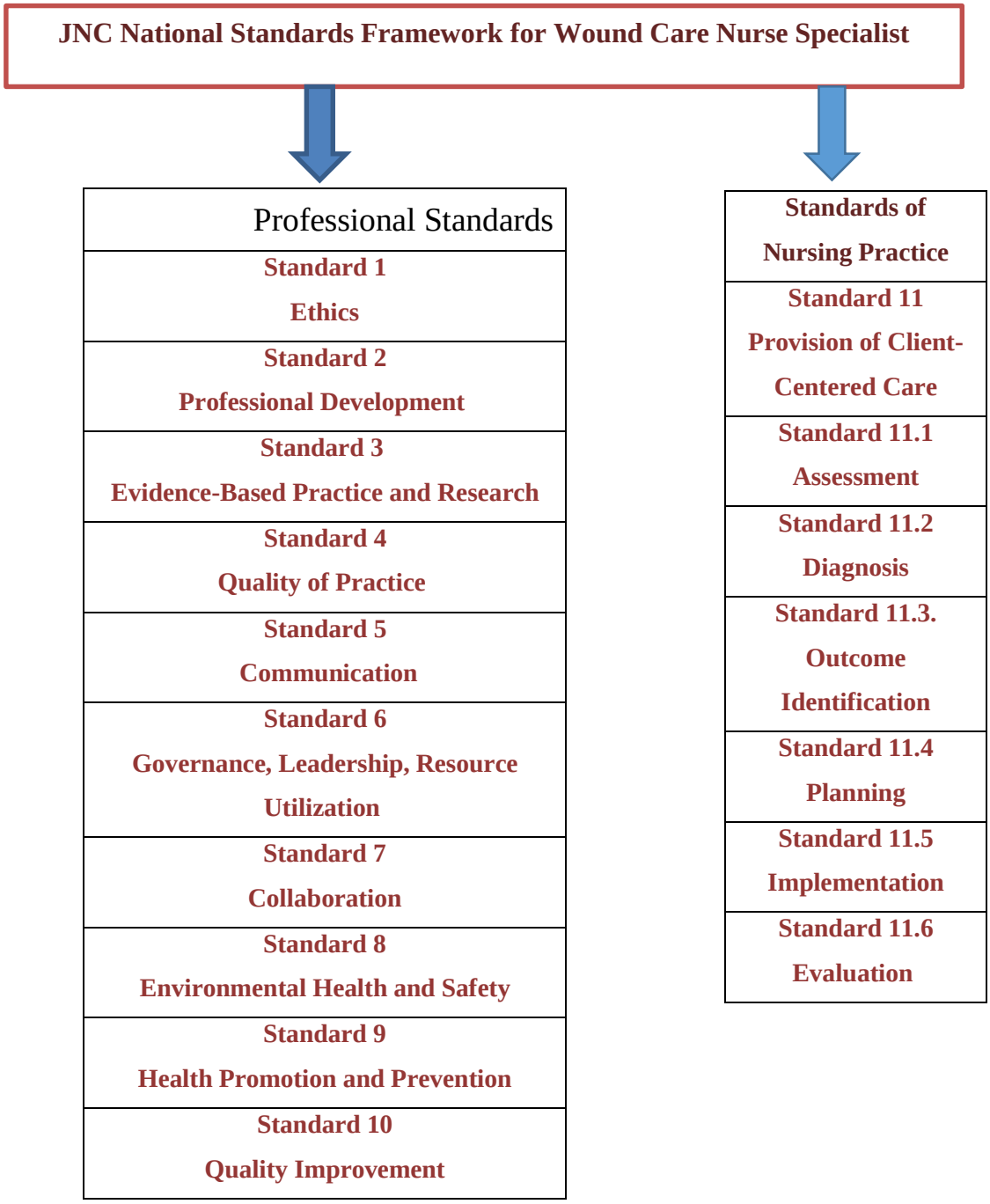

Figure 1: JNC national standards framework for wound care nurse specialist.

Standard 1: Ethics

The WCN demonstrates ethical decision-making in situations with complex issues arising from ethical dilemmas in the healthcare system.

Competencies:

- Practices in a manner that conforms to the JNMC Code of Ethics.
- Utilizes ethical principles and theories to guide professional practice and ethical decision-making.
- Preserves and protects clients' rights, dignity, and autonomy.
- Ensures client's rights of informed consent, confidentiality, and privacy that are consistent with the client's legal rights.
- Advocates client's rights protection.
- Assists clients to develop skills in protecting own rights.
- Develops sensitivity and awareness to issues that precipitate ethical dilemmas related to the use of labels, violation of professional boundaries, exploitation of power dynamics inherent in the therapeutic relationship, and other practices that could compromise client's rights.
- Identifies ethical dilemmas related to client's care issues, multidisciplinary team, organizational and societal issues, access to resources, justice, and legal issues.
- Identifies moral distress in self and others.
- Mediates ethical decision-making to resolve ethical conflicts by using appropriate communication skills.
- Manages the resolution of ethical dilemma occurring within the healthcare system related to client's care, significant others, communication network, information system, and technology.
- Creates an ethical practice environment by promoting equality of care, raising awareness to environmental barriers to ethical practice, revising policies to limit

ethical conflicts, and developing guidelines to handle ethical conflicts and dilemmas within the healthcare system.

Additional competencies for WCANS:

- Coaches the WCNS in ethical decision-making.
- Coaches client and significant others into making choices of treatment by providing accurate clear information and considers benefits, risks, and outcomes.
- Evaluates the effectiveness of policies and strategies for managing ethical dilemmas inherent in client care, healthcare organization, and research.
- Integrates principles of social justice into nursing and policy.

Standard 2: Professional Development

The WCN is committed to continuous development of knowledge and competencies through systematic effective mechanisms for professional development programs.

Competencies:

- Engages in continuing education activities to enhance own knowledge and build new competencies related to new advances in wound care nursing practice.
- Participates in multidisciplinary educational activities to promote healthcare team collaboration.
- Participates in evaluation and regulation processes of individuals through privileging, credentialing, certification, and accreditation
- Demonstrates commitment to lifelong learning through self-reflection and inquiry to identify learning needs using professional portfolio that provides individual competence and lifelong learning.
- Acquires knowledge and skills appropriate to specialty area, practice setting, role, or situation
- Uses creativity and innovation in wound care professional activities to improve care delivery.

Additional competencies for WCANS:

- Advocates for working environment that promotes motivation and enthusiasm towards professional development of knowledge and competences as a requirement to achieve excellence in practice.
- Coaches WCNS and multidisciplinary team members to improve client-centered competences.
- Designs, implements, and evaluates continuing education programs to meet professional advancement needs.
- Ensures the presence of effective mechanisms and programs for implementing and evaluating professional wound care standards.
- Identifies modifications or accommodations needed in the delivery of wound, ostomy, and continence care and education based on healthcare consumer and family members' needs.

Standard 3: Evidence-Based Practice and Research

The WCN integrates research findings into practice and exhibits familiarity with contemporary research and evaluation in wound care and uses valid research and evidence to reach a clinical judgment.

Competencies:

- Uses evidence-based knowledge from research in clinical decision-making.
- Participates in improving quality of care by following the evidence-based practice process:
  - Generating evidence-based clinical questions;
  - Conducting literature review for related studies in wound care;
  - Evaluating and extracting evidence;
  - Implementing the findings in clinical decision-making; and
  - Participating in research activities according to the nurse's educational level.
- Participates in research activities related to the improvement of staff competencies and quality of care in wound management.

- Participates with the multidisciplinary team members in evaluating quality of client's care in contrast with the contemporary evidence in research studies related to wound care area of practice.

Additional competencies for WCANS:

- Critiques relevant literature and research findings and synthesizes evidence from research studies.
- Interprets and utilizes evidence-based practice to develop policies for client's care.
- Utilizes relevant evidence-based practice to determine standards of care.
- Disseminates evidence-based practice from continuing education activities, research committees, consultations, and journal clubs.
- Conducts research activities to improve wound care.
- Develops a work environment that inspires clinical inquiry and creativity in utilizing evidence-based practice and research.
- Develops evidence-based educational programs to improve and standardize the delivery of wound, ostomy, and continence care.
- Advocates for the ethical conduct and translation of research with particular attention to the protection of the healthcare consumer as a research participant.

Standard 4: Quality of Practice and Professional Practice Evaluation

The WCN continually monitors and ensures the effectiveness and efficiency of quality of wound care practice

Competencies:

- Identifies issues in the work environment, care setting, and the community and/or society that hinder the nurse’s ability to provide safe and compassionate nursing care interventions.
- Initiates changes to implement new nursing practices for the healthcare system based on the result of quality enhancement activities.
- Improves the delivery of care using creative and novel ideas in wound care nursing practice.

- Integrates new knowledge to create changes in wound care nursing practice to ensure intended outcomes are met.
- Shares in quality improvement activities. Such activities may include:
  - Identifying aspects of wound care nursing practice which are important for monitoring quality
  - Using indicators approved by the employment organization to monitor quality and efficient wound care nursing practice
  - Monitoring data collection for quality and efficient wound care nursing practice
  - Examining collected data to identify opportunities to improve the quality of wound care nursing practice;
  - Proposing new methods to improve wound care nursing practice and outcomes
  - Devising activities to ensure quality of wound care nursing practice;
  - Improving the quality of practice by developing, implementing, and evaluating policies, procedures, and guidelines
  - Collaborating with the healthcare team to evaluate health services;
  - Adopting processes to eliminate or decrease barriers within organizational systems
  - Promoting and maintaining the professional image of nursing
  - Identifying factors that facilitate safe, satisfactory, efficient, and cost-effective care.
- Advocates for the right to participate in health policy development.
- Promotes the development of professional wound care nursing practice.
- Requests formal and informal feedback pertaining to own practice from healthcare persons, peers, professional colleagues, and others.
- Assesses client's outcome of care in order to improve quality of provided care.

Additional competencies for WCANS:

- Attains and maintains professional certification at the advanced level in wound nursing from JNC.
- Develops initiatives to improve quality of care and health outcomes.
- Educates the WCNS and other staff members and colleagues in the conduct of quality and performance improvement projects.
- Identifies opportunities for using generated data from evidence-based practice and research.
- Evaluates the clinical practice environment and quality of nursing care provided in relation to existing evidence-based knowledge.
- Takes action to achieve goals identified during the evaluation process.
- Reflects on and evaluates own practice and role performance by modeling self-improvement and by sharing insights with peers and professional colleagues.
- Uses data and information in system level decision-making.

Standard 5: Communication

The WCN uses therapeutic communication skills with clients and families and maintains open communication with multidisciplinary team to provide holistic wound care.

Competencies:

- Assesses one's own communication skills and effectiveness.
- Assesses communication ability, health literacy, resources, and preferences of healthcare consumers to inform the interprofessional team and others.
- Exhibits knowledge and understanding of human behavior underlying the variety of responses to different life situations.
- Communicates acceptance, unconditional respect, listening, empathy, sincerity, warmth, and caring in interacting with clients, significant others, and healthcare team members.

- Uses communication skills therapeutically.
- Recognizes the different styles of communication exhibited by clients, significant others, and healthcare providers.
- Reflects on own communication style in relating to others in a variety of situations.
- Conveys information to clients, significant others, and healthcare provider in an accurate, clear, and simple language.
- Utilizes effective communication strategies and interventions according to the situation, such as, interviewing, problem-solving, emotional and informational support
- Maintains open and facilitative communication with interprofessional members to prevent error or risk associated with provision, transfer, or transition of care.
- Demonstrates continued improvement of communication.

Additional competencies for WCANS:

- Assumes a leadership role in shaping environments that promote healthy communication.

Standard 6: Governance, Leadership, Resource Utilization and Evaluation

The WCNS delivers leadership in the professional practice setting and the profession and in the planning and delivery of wound care nursing services and considers factors related to safety, effectiveness, cost, and impact on practice.

Competencies:

- Assesses healthcare consumer care needs and resources available to achieve desired outcomes.
- Identifies the impact of resource allocation on potential for harm, complexity of the task, and desired outcomes.
- Advocates for resources that support and enhance wound care nursing practice.
- Integrates advanced health technologies in communication into practice to promote positive interactions between healthcare consumers and care providers.

- Engages organizational and community resources to formulate and implement interprofessional plans.
- Designs innovative solutions to use resources effectively and maintain quality.
- Participates in teamwork as a team player, a team builder, and as a team member.
- Acts to generate and maintain healthy work environments in local, regional, national, or international communities.
- Demonstrates ability to state a clear vision with associated goals and a plan to implement and measure progress.
- Exhibits a commitment to continuous education and lifelong learning for self and others.
- Practices mentoring abilities and other strategies to help others to succeed.
- Displays creativity and flexibility through times of change.
- Exhibits energy, excitement, and a passion for quality work.
- Utilizes self and others for learning as opportunities to encourage risk-taking.
- Motivates loyalty by valuing people as the most valued resources in an organization.
- Supervises the coordination of wound care across settings and among caregivers, including omissions of nursing staff in any assigned or delegated tasks.
- Participates in committees, councils, and administrative teams.
- Participates in professional organizations to promote advancement of the profession
- Accepts accountability and responsibility for own professional judgment and actions.
- Knows the limits of own role and competence.
- Consults with a WCANS with the required expertise when nursing care requires expertise beyond own current competence or scope of practice.

- Consults with other healthcare professionals and pertinent organizations/agencies when individual or group needs are outside the scope of nursing practice.
- Appraises factors such as safety, effectiveness, availability, cost-benefit, efficiencies, and impact on practice when selecting practice options that would result in the same expected outcome.
- Helps the person and family in recognizing and securing accurate information and available services to address health-related needs.
- Assigns and or delegates elements of care to appropriate healthcare workers, based on the needs and condition of the person, potential for harm, stability of the condition, complexity of the task, and predictability of the outcome in addition to taking into consideration the abilities of the healthcare worker.
- Helps the person and family in becoming informed about the options, costs, risks, and benefits of treatment and care.
- Requests for resources, including technology, that promotes quality care.
- Reviews the evidence when evaluating resources.
- Documents any gap in resources.

Additional competencies for WCANS:

- Creates evaluation strategies that address cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and efficiency factors associated with wound care nursing practice.
- Assumes complex and advanced leadership roles to initiate and guide change.
- Delegates activities to others according to their abilities and scope of practice.
- Supervises aspects of care delegated to others and gives support as needed.
- Upholds accountability and responsibility when delegating aspects of care to others.
- Effects health policy and endorses orientation programs in services for prevention and treatment of integumentary problems and disorders, and other co-occurring integumentary-related disorders.
- Influences decision-making agencies to improve healthcare.

- Provides direction to improve healthcare team effectiveness.
- Initiates and revises protocols or guidelines to reflect evidence-based practice to reflect accepted changes in care management or to address emerging problems.
- Promotes communication of information and advancement of the profession through writing, publishing, and presentations for professional or lay audiences.

Standard 7: Collaboration

The WCNS collaborates with the healthcare team, individual, family, and others in the conduct of nursing practice .

Competencies:

- Shares knowledge and skills with colleagues as evidenced by activities such as healthcare conferences or presentations at formal or informal meetings.
- Provides colleagues with feedback regarding their practice and role performance.
- Interacts with colleagues to enhance own professional nursing practice and role performance.
- Maintains compassionate and caring relationships with peers and colleagues.
- Contributes to an environment that is conducive to the education of healthcare professionals.
- Contributes to a supportive and healthy work environment.
- Articulates clearly the nurse's role and responsibilities within the team.
- Uses appropriate tools and techniques, including available information systems and technologies, to facilitate discussion and team functions in a manner that protects dignity, respect, privacy, and confidentiality.
- Exhibits dignity and respect when interacting with others and giving and receiving feedback.

Additional competencies for WCANS:

- Models expert practice to interdisciplinary team members and healthcare providers.

- Mentors and provides clinical supervision to other registered nurses and colleagues as appropriate.
- Participates in interdisciplinary teams that contribute to role development and advanced nursing practice and healthcare.
- Partners with other disciplines to enhance healthcare through interprofessional activities, such as education, consultation, management, technological development, or research opportunities.
- Facilitates an interprofessional process with other members of the healthcare team.
- Promotes engagement through consensus building and conflict management.

Standard 8: Environmental Health and Safety

The WCNS practices in an environmentally safe and healthy manner for persons, caregivers, families, visitors, and workers.

Competencies:

- Obtains knowledge of environmental health concepts, such as implementation of environmental health and safety strategies.
- Establishes and maintains a safe environment of care through the use of quality assurance and risk management strategies.
- Identifies actual and potential risks using appropriate assessment tools.
- Devises a practice environment that reduces environmental health risks for workers and patients/persons.
- Evaluates the practice environment for factors such as sound, odor, noise, and light.
- Applies infection control procedures.
- Communicates environmental health risks and exposure reduction strategies to persons, families, colleagues, and communities.
- Contributes in strategies to promote healthy practice settings.

- Uses products or treatments consistent with evidence-based practice to reduce environmental threat.

Additional competencies for WCANS:

- Encourages partnerships that sponsor sustainable environmental health policies and conditions.
- Analyzes the effect of social, political, and economic issues on the environment and human health exposures.
- Supports implementation of environmental principles for nursing practice.
- Assists nurses in advocating for and implementing environmental principles in nursing practice.
- Performs regular reviews of safety in all units to identify, intervene, and resolve any safety issue.

Standard 9: Health Promotion and Prevention

The WCNS registered nurse employs strategies to promote health and safe environment.

Competencies:

- Implements appropriate health promotion and primary prevention approaches to people from diverse backgrounds.
- Works with people, families, and caregivers to understand factors that trigger periods of illness and what helps prevent or resolve these periods.
- Delivers appropriate learning resources, education, and support materials to people, families, and caregivers.
- Provides opportunities for the healthcare consumer to identify needed healthcare promotion disease prevention and self-management topics.
- Uses health promotion and health teaching methods in collaboration with the healthcare consumer's values, beliefs, health practices, developmental level, learning needs, readiness and ability to learn, language preference, spirituality, culture, and socioeconomic status.

- Uses feedback and evaluations from the healthcare consumer to determine the effectiveness of the employed strategies.
- Uses available technologies to communicate health promotion and disease prevention information to the healthcare consumer.
- Provides anticipatory guidance to healthcare consumers to promote health and prevent or reduce the risk of negative health outcomes.

Additional competencies for WCANS:

- Evaluates health information resources for applicability, accuracy, readability, and comprehensibility to help healthcare consumers' access quality health information.
- Incorporates theories and research in generating teaching and counseling strategies to promote and preserve health and healthy lifestyles in populations with wounds.

Standard 10: Quality improvement

The WCNS collaborates with individuals with lived experience of wounds, families, and team members. The WCANS takes active steps to advance services and wound care practices using quality-improvement frameworks.

- Participates in quality improvement processes.
- Requests resources and equipment to improve service delivery.
- Contributes to organizational systems and a culture that respects the rights of people, families, and caregivers.
- Utilizes tools and outcome measures to support, record, and monitor improvement in practice and takes steps to address problems in practice.
- Supports working in partnership with individuals and caregivers to evaluate service planning to improve outcomes and safeguard greater participation at all levels.
- Contributes to a positive and accountable solution that includes learning from mistakes.

Additional competencies for WCANS:

- Designs a quality improvement program to promote safe, efficient, equitable, and effective client-centered care.

Standards of Practice

This domain focuses on the provision of comprehensive, systematic, and prioritized care to achieve identified health outcomes. Empathy and ensuring effective interpersonal and therapeutic communication skills are critical. They include verbal and non-verbal messages to share information, meanings, and feelings with clients and their families to appreciate and understand the client's perspectives of health needs.

WCN must adapt their communication approaches to the individuals' needs to provide high quality assessment, care, and treatment. Success in this reflects competency to assess and support individual client needs through provision of client-centered care based on scientific approaches. The wound care practice domain standards consist of one standard and six sub-standards.

Standard 11: Provision of Client-Centered Care

Standard 11.1: Assessment

The WCNS collects comprehensive health data that is pertinent to the patient's integumentary health or situation.

- Collaborates with clients to gather holistic assessments through observation, examination, interview, and consultation while being attentive to issues of confidentiality and pertinent legal statutes.
- Acknowledges the need and options for comprehensive and inter-professional team assessment.
- Identifies opportunities and information to encourage and facilitate their participation in wound management and wound prevention.
- Collects comprehensive data for the individual but not limited to, demographics, social determinants of health, health disparities, and physical, functional, biological, psychosocial, emotional, spiritual, cognitive, sexual, cultural, age-related, environmental, and economic assessments in a systematic, ongoing process with compassion and respect for the dignity and uniqueness of the clients

- Collect patients assessment outcomes that may include:
  - Reason for presentation; Health history; Age and specific age-related changes;
  - Previous wound history and outcomes, Medication history—prescribed and over-the-counter medications.
  - Psychosocial implications resulting from wounding;
  - Nutritional statues; Sensitivities and allergies
  - Previous relevant diagnostics and investigations; Pain assessment with use of validated pain tool

- Collect expanded assessment parameters that may include:

  -Risk assessments, e.g. falls and skin integrity.

  -Vascular assessment: observations for hypoxia and ischemia, palpation of pulses, ankle brachial pressure index, and transcutaneous oxygen perfusion.

  -Sensory assessment: monofilament testing or testing blunt/sharp pressure touch, vibratory sensation—tuning fork or biothesiometer, testing of reflexes—patella hammer.

- Conducts initial and ongoing wound assessments that include:

  -Type of wound, etiology and original mechanism of wound, duration of wound, location, dimensions of wound, e.g. length, width, depth, and circumference.

  -Clinical characteristics of wound bed, e.g. a granular, granulation, epithelium, slough, necrosis, eschar, bone, tendon, fibrin, and presence of foreign bodies.

  -Wound edge appearance, e.g. level, raised, rolled, undermined, and color.

  -Peri wound appearance, e.g. erythema, edema, induration, maceration, desiccation, dermatitis/eczema, callus, hyperkeratosis, pigmentation, or allergic reactions.

  -Exudate: type and color, e.g. serous, haemoserous, sanguineous, seropurulent, purulent, consistency (thick or thin), and amount, odor.

-Inflammation: could be related to physiological healing or chronic inflammatory changes; signs and symptoms include erythema, edema, pain, and heat.

-Infection: classic signs and symptoms include pain, heat, erythema, edema, and purulence which tend to be more evident in acute surgical or traumatic wounds.

- Conduct assessment of chronic wound include:

  - Covert infection (also known as critical colonization, local infection, topical infection or increased bacterial burden): signs and symptoms may include static healing, rolled edges, changes in granulation tissue (bright friable hyper-granulation or pocketing), bridging of tissues, increased exudates, or discomfort.

  -Spreading infection: involvement of adjacent or regional structures, e.g. cellulites.

  -Systemic infection: systemic signs and symptoms may include loss of appetite, general malaise, pyrexia, increased white cells, or raised C-reactive protein.

- Assess wound pain intensity with a validated pain scale and determine etiology and presentation:

  - Non-cyclic wound pain: suture removal or debridement.

  -Cyclic wound pain: daily dressings.

  - Chronic wound pain: not related to manipulated interventions.

  -Presence of foreign bodies, e.g. sutures, staples, orthopedic implants, drains, glass, gravel, or dirt.

  -Previous wound treatments and their therapeutic outcome.

- Conducts an assessment of the individual's healing environment to identify factors that could impact on confidentiality, safe performance of procedures, infection control, or wound healing, and may include Individual's lifestyle factors.

  -Storage security for the individual's records.

  - Environmental hygiene status.

-Use of personal protection garments and devices by clinicians if there is a risk of contamination.

-Avoidance of airborne contaminants during procedures.

-Maintenance of stable environmental temperature to optimize wound temperature.

-Safe and secure storage of wound products, pharmaceuticals, and devices.

-Appropriate disposal of used wound products, pharmaceuticals, and devices.

-Individual and clinician's safety precautions.

- Performs diagnostic investigations when clinically indicated to ascertain and monitor wound etiology, healing potential, assessment outcomes, associated diagnoses, and management

- Diagnostic investigations may include the following:

  - ✓ Biochemical analysis: Blood glucose and HbA1c,Hemoglobin,Plasma albumin, Lipids.Urea and electrolytes, Rheumatoid factor, Auto antibodies, White cell count, Erythrocyte sedimentation rate, C-reactive protein, Liver function tests.
  - ✓ Microbiology:

-Wound swab for semi-quantitative and quantitative bacteriology.

-Needle aspiration and quantitative bacteriology.

-Wound biopsy for quantitative bacteriology.

-Skin and nail scrapings for culture and microscopy.

  - ✓ Histopathology:

Wound biopsy to identify pathological changes.

  - ✓ Diagnostic imaging:

-Plain x-ray, e.g. fracture, osteomyelitis.

-Bone scan, e.g. osteomyelitis.

-Magnetic resonance imaging, e.g. gas gangrene and osteomyelitis.

-Computed tomography, e.g. soft tissue infection and osteomyelitis.

-Sinogram and fistulgram to identify tracking.

- ✓ Vascular assessment:

-Ankle/brachial pressure index for vascular status of lower limb.

-Duplex ultrasound for venous and arterial disease.

-Photoplethysmography for venous disease.

-Transcutaneous oxygen for local tissue perfusion.

-Angiography for arterial disease.

- ✓ Neurological foot assessment:

-Autonomic neuropathy: palpation to assess for bounding foot pulses and increased skin temperature, observation for dry cracked skin integrity, and foot deformity.

-Peripheral sensory neuropathy: use of a 10gm/5.07 Semmes-Weinstein monofilament for assessment of sensation, a tuning fork (128C) or biothesiometer for assessment of vibration perception.

-Peripheral motor neuropathy: use of a patella hammer for assessment of patella and Achilles reflexes and muscle weakness.

- ✓ Nutritional assessment:

-Food and fluid intake.

-Hair and skin changes.

-Anthropometric assessment: objective measurements used to estimate subcutaneous fat and skeletal muscle stores. Formulas such as the Harris-Benedict equation can be used measure and evaluate basal metabolic rate or basal energy expenditure, or waist-to-hip ratio.

-Body mass index and nutritional assessment: height, weight, and body mass.

-Specific biochemical tests, e.g. albumin, transferrin, and zinc.

-Mini Nutritional Assessment.

- ✓ Psychological assessment:

-Mini-mental for cognition and Alzheimer's disease.

-Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale, e.g. depression and anxiety.

-Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression.

-Quality of life scales for specific health populations.

Additional Competencies for the WCANS:

- Adopts evidence-based clinical practice guidelines to guide screening and diagnostic activities related to wounds.
- Initiates diagnostic test and procedures relevant to the healthcare team consumer's current status.
- Uses advanced assessment, knowledge, and skills to maintain, enhance, or improve health conditions.

Standard 11.2: Diagnosis

The WCNS identifies the needs or areas of need for wound care, in collaboration with the individual and family caregivers. Identifies the actual, potential risks, areas of concern for wound care, and treatment.

Competencies:

- Identifies actual or potential risk to the healthcare consumer's health and safety or barriers to health, which may include but are not limited to interpersonal, systematic, cultural, or environmental circumstances.
- Uses assessment data, standardized classification system, technology, and clinical decision support tools or available recourses to articulate actual or potential diagnoses, problems, and issues with the individual, family, group, community, population, and interprofessional colleagues.
- Prioritizes diagnoses, problems, and issues based on mutually established goals to meet the needs of the healthcare consumer across the health-illness continuum.
- Documents nursing diagnoses or problems that serve as a base for developing expected outcome and care plan.

Additional Competencies for WCANS:

- Uses information and available communication technologies to analyze diagnostic practice patterns of nurses and other members of the interprofessional healthcare team.
- Formulates a differential diagnosis based on the assessment, history, physical examination, and diagnostic test result.
- Assists the WCNS and other staff members in developing and maintaining competency in problem identification and the diagnostic process.
- Evaluates the impact of wound care on client's health, their recovery, functional level, and quality of life.

Standard 11.3: Outcome Identification

The WCNS defines the expected outcome of wound management care that is client-centered and recovery-oriented in collaboration with the client, family, significant others, and the interdisciplinary health team to provide optimal quality care.

WCNS Competencies:

- Identifies outcomes of wound management care that are client-centered and recovery-oriented.
- Identifies outcomes that address the client's health status, risk factors, problems, and responses to illness and daily life events.
- Formulates client's culturally expected health outcomes that are measurable with individualized timeline of accomplishment.
- Collaborates with the client, family, significant others, and multidisciplinary health team members to develop outcome criteria and goals that are derived from the nursing diagnosis.
- Weighs the benefits, risks, costs, clinical expertise, and evidence-based knowledge when formulating achievable outcome criteria.
- Develops expected outcomes that address continuity of wound management care within the healthcare system.
- Integrates scientific evidence and best practices to achieve expected outcomes.
- Generates a time frame for the attainment of expected outcomes.

- Documents expected outcomes in a client-focused format using simple and clear language that is understandable to the client, family, and significant others.
- Modifies expected outcomes in collaboration with the client, family, significant others, and the multidisciplinary team as a response to changes in health status or situation.
- Evaluates the actual outcomes in relation to expected outcomes, safety, and quality standards.

Additional Competencies for WCANS:

- Assists the WCNS and multidisciplinary team members in identifying expected outcomes that integrates scientific evidence to enhance the implementation of evidence-based practices.
- Develops, revises, implements, and regularly upgrades clinical policies, pathways, guidelines, and procedures to promote positive outcomes.
- Develops expected outcomes that ensure cost effectiveness, continuity, consistency, and quality of care among the interdisciplinary team members.
- Differentiates outcomes that require care process interventions from those that require system-level actions.

Standard 11.4: Planning

WCNS Competencies:

The WCNS develops a wound management care plan that identifies the outcome of wound management care in collaboration with the client, family, significant others, and the multidisciplinary health team members.

WCNS Competencies:

- Develops a plan of wound management care that is based on strategies and alternatives to assist the client in achieving expected outcomes.
- Develops a client-centered plan by collaborating with the client, family, significant others, and multidisciplinary team members to facilitate optimal adherence and involvement.

- Considers different variables that will enhance the plan of care such as client's strengths, developmental level, cultural background, preferences, coping abilities, presence of support systems, resources, feasibility of services, and technology.
- Consults with or refer to other members of the multidisciplinary team.
- Establishes the wound management care plan priorities in collaboration with the client, family, significant others, and multidisciplinary health team members.
- Prioritizes elements of the plan based on the assessment of the healthcare consumer's level of risk problems and safety needs.
- Includes an individualized unique clinical pathway that identifies the timeline and continuity of care.
- Includes evidence-based strategies in the plan to address each of the identified diagnoses, problems, or issues. These strategies may include but are not limited to:

  -Promotion and restoration of health;

  -Prevention of illness, injury, and disease;

  -Facilitation of healing;

  -Alleviation of suffering; and

  -Supportive care.
- Modifies the plan based on ongoing assessment of client's responsiveness to interventions and progress towards recovery.
- Documents the care plan using client-centered terminology.

Additional Competencies for WCANS:

- Advocates for responsible and appropriate use of interventions to minimize unwarranted or unwanted treatment and/or client suffering.
- Identifies cost and economic implications of the plan.
- Monitors and evaluates the flow of care according to the plan and client's status to ensure consistency in applying the plan.
- Designs new approaches and strategies that are evidence-based and geared towards the changing needs of the client.

- Leads the design and development of interprofessional processes to address the identified diagnoses, problems, or issues.
- Designs innovative nursing practices.
- Coordinates plans to utilize different treatment modalities to minimize and prevent complications, and promote recovery and optimal quality of life.
- Incorporates client's expectations, attitudes, values, and beliefs related to the choice of planned therapeutic modalities.
- Participates actively in the development and continuous improvement of systems that support the planning process.

Standard 11.5: Implementation

The WCNS implements the wound management care plan that is agreed upon with the client, family, significant others, and multidisciplinary health team and implements the wound management care plan according to qualifications and the institution's policies.

The WCNS implements the plan.

WCNS Competencies:

- Coordinates with the client, family, significant others, and multidisciplinary team members to implement the different parts of the plan in a safe, realistic, and timely manner.
- Maintains a therapeutic relationship with the client and significant others to facilitate recovery.
- Provides culturally congruent holistic care that focuses on the client, and addresses and advocates for the needs of diverse populations
- Integrates critical thinking and technology solutions to implement the nursing process to collect, measure, record, retrieve, trend, and analyze data and information to enhance nursing practice and client outcomes.
- Respects the boundaries of a professional relationship in working with clients, significant others, and multidisciplinary team members.
- Uses evidence-based nursing interventions and treatments specific to the client's health problem or issue.

- Coordinates with other nursing staff in carrying out wound care nursing interventions.
- Documents implementation and any modifications, changes, additions, or omissions in the plan of care.
- Applies quality principles while articulating methods, tools, performance measures, and standards as they relate to implementation of the plan.
- Integrates new knowledge and strategies to initiate change in care plan when desired outcomes are not achieved.
- Prescribes traditional and integrative evidence-based treatment, therapies, and procedures that are compatible with the client's cultural preferences and norms.
- Responds effectively and rapidly to wound care emergencies through early identification, assessing the risk, initiating the plan, and managing the situation.

Additional Competencies for WCANS:

- Implements the plan by facilitating the use of deferent available resources.
- Integrates or leads interprofessional team partners in implementing the plan through collaboration, communication, and consultation across the continuum of care.
- Collaborates with nursing colleagues and other multidisciplinary team members to implement the plan.
- Delegates according to the health, safety, and welfare of the client considering the circumstance, person, task, direction or communication, supervision, and evaluation.
- Demonstrates leadership skills that emphasize ethical and critical decision-making, effective working relationships, and a system perspective.
- Participates in the development and continuous improvement of quality of care services that support the enactment of the plan.
- Serves as a consultant to provide additional insight and potential solutions including complex clinical cases to improve patient care and outcomes.
- Uses theory-driven approaches to effect organizational or system change.

- Uses prescriptive authority, procedures, referrals, treatments, and therapies in accordance with organizational policies and regulations.

Standard 11.5.A: Coordination of Care

The WCNS coordinates care delivery.

WCNS Competencies

- Organizes the components of the plan.
- Collaborates with clients in managing their healthcare based on mutually agreed upon outcomes.
- Engages client in self-care to achieve preferred goals for quality of life.
- Coordinates implementation of the different components of the planned care.
- Manages the client's care to enhance independence and optimize recovery and quality of life.
- Assists the client to identify options for alternative types of care provided by different healthcare professionals.
- Advocates for the delivery of dignified and holistic care by the interprofessional team.
- Involves the client, family, significant others, and the different systems during the period of care transition.
- Documents the coordinated care plan approved by the multidisciplinary team members.

Additional Competencies for WCANS:

- Provides leadership in coordinating the interprofessional healthcare for integrated delivery of client services to achieve safe, effective, efficient, timely, patient-centered, and equitable care.
- Coordinates the continuity of client-care through the continuum of healthcare system services and different available resources.
- Synthesizes data and information to prescribe and provide necessary system and community support measures, including modification environments.

Standard 11.6: Evaluation

The WC nurse evaluates progress in attaining the identified goals for the client and the expected outcomes of the nursing care plan in collaboration with the client, the family, and the interdisciplinary health team.

The WCNS evaluates progress concerning the accomplishment of expected outcomes.

WCNS Competencies:

- Conducts a holistic, systematic, ongoing, and criterion-based evaluation of the goals and outcomes in relation to the structure, processes, and timeline prescribed in the plan.
- Collaborates with the client and others involved in the care or situation of the evaluation processes.
- Determines in partnership with the client and other stakeholders, the patient-centeredness, effectiveness, efficiency, safety, timeless, and equitability of the strategies in relation to the responses to the plan and attainment of outcomes. Other defined criteria (e.g. quality and safety education for nurses) may also be used.
- Uses ongoing assessment data to revise the diagnoses, outcomes, plan, and implementation strategies.
- Evaluates the client's response to the planned care strategies.
- Shares evaluation data and conclusion with the client and other stakeholders.
- Modifies the plan with the client and multidisciplinary team members according to the given situation, appraisal, and new data.
- Participates in supervising appropriate implementation of the plan to minimize unexpected or unwanted adverse effects of treatment on the client.
- Documents results of the evaluation.
- Recommends process, policy, procedure, or protocol revisions when warranted.

Additional Competencies for WCANS:

- Appraises the accuracy of the diagnosis and the efficiency of the interventions related to the client's attainment of the expected outcomes.

- Utilizes the results from the evaluation data to propose new changes, including policies, procedures, documentation forms, or other changes according to findings.
- Assists the WCNS or RN in evaluating and re-framing complex care plans.
- Synthesizes evaluation data from the client, community, population and/or institution to determine the effectiveness of the plan.

1. Engages in a systematic evaluation process to revise the plan to enhance its effectiveness
2. Uses results of the evaluation to make or recommend process, procedure, or protocol revisions when warranted.

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