

Sample: Position Description for a Nurse Completing the WOCN Society's Ostomy Care Associate Program

Title: Ostomy Care Associate

Department: Nursing

Responsible to: Director of Nursing

Minimum Job Qualifications:

- Current licensure: Registered nurse or licensed practical or vocational nurse.
- 2 years of nursing experience.
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Satisfactory completion of the WOCN Society's Ostomy Care Associate Program.

General Functions:

The ostomy care associate is responsible for the provision of routine ostomy care and functions under the direction of the supervising wound, ostomy, and continence (WOC) specialty nurse (i.e., WOC registered nurse, WOC graduate-level prepared registered nurse, WOC advanced practice registered nurse); a physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner; or a clinical nurse specialist (experienced in ostomy care). **Note:** Each nurse is accountable for practicing in accordance with the specific requirements of the licensing board in the state(s) where the nurse practices. Job titles and specific role functions are determined by the employing organization and should be consistent with the state board of nursing's licensing regulations and requirements.

Specific Responsibilities for the Ostomy Care Associate :

1. Collaborates with the supervising WOC specialty nurse or other healthcare provider and team members, and in accordance with established protocols:
 - Provides routine care that promotes optimal outcomes for the patient with an ostomy (e.g., assessment of the stoma, peristomal skin, and stomal output; measurement of the stoma and sizing/fitting of the pouching system; colostomy irrigation if ordered).
 - Identifies patients at risk for developing peristomal skin damage and/or stomal complications, and provides preventive care.
 - Evaluates and manages common peristomal and/or stomal complications; and refers patients with complex problems to a WOC specialty nurse or other healthcare provider.
 - Provides or assists with individualized preoperative and postoperative education regarding basic ostomy care to patients, caregivers, and team members.
 - Maintains an inventory of products for ostomy care.
2. Collaborates with the supervising WOC specialty nurse or other healthcare provider and team members, and in accordance with established protocols:
 - Provides skin care and containment of drainage for patients with fistulas.

- Manages percutaneous tubes: stabilizes tubes, promotes skin integrity, maintains tube patency, and provides containment (pouching) when necessary.
 - Provides education to patients, caregivers, and team members regarding management of fistulas and/or percutaneous tubes.
3. Participates in quality improvement programs.
 4. Determines patients who require referral to a WOC specialty nurse or other healthcare provider.