



Memorandum of Understanding between WCET and Countries' ET or WOC Associations Related to ETNEPs/REPs Recognition

Criteria and Procedures

Introduction

The WCET Mission is to lead the global advancement of specialized professional nursing care for people with ostomy, wound or continence needs. Part of our vision is to ensure specialized nursing care is available globally for all people with a need for ostomy, wound or continence care and to provide nurses worldwide with access to ostomy, wound and continence specialty education.

WCET recognizes that, in each nation, nursing and enterostomal therapy (ET) nursing/ Wound Ostomy and Continence Nursing (WOCN) evolve to meet the unique needs of that nation. WCET acknowledges that the education levels for nurses and ET/ WOC nurses are varied across the world.

WCET also recognizes that, although it is an international organization, all Enterostomal Therapy Nursing Education Programs (ETNEPs) and Recognized Education Programs (REPs) submitted for review need to be in English and that this is prohibitive to some ETNEPs and REPs applying for WCET recognition of their program. On the other hand, the specialty is already well accepted around the world; many countries have Stoma and/ or Wound and/ or Continence Nursing Associations and many ETNEPs and REPs have achieved a very high level of recognition.

Considering all of these statements, WCET has established the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) since 2011. Through MOU between WCET and a country – always represented by its National Specialty Nursing ET/ WOC Association – WCET automatically recognizes all country ETNEPs/REPs previously recognized by the country National Stoma and or Wound and or Continence Nursing Association and the respective graduated nursing specialists (ETs/ WOCNs). ETNEPs demand their recognition just by an Association which involves all the three areas (ostomy, wound and continence care). For REPs' recognition, Association must include ostomy care, besides wound or continence depending on the type of REP (just Ostomy care; Ostomy and Wound Care or Ostomy and Continence Care).

Considering WCET has been receiving some requests, it is necessary to establish some criteria which should make the process systematic, objective and valid.

Criteria

WCET Education Committee establishes the following criteria:

Part I: Obligatory criteria

1. The country must have a mature, recognized National Specialized Association (stoma and/or wound and/ or continence association).
2. The National Specialized Association must have an internal process for recognizing ETNEPs/ REPs across the country. This process should be based on that used by the WCET Education Committee, with acknowledgement of the cultural and political differences inherent in the country.
3. The country must have at least one ETNEP/REP previously recognized by WCET for the maximum recognition time (4 or 5 years according to the current WCET guidelines);
4. The country must have at least two ETNEP/REPs, according to its stoma, wound and continence care demands;
5. The ETNEPs/ REPs must have their directors or consultants as WCET full members.
6. The country/ National Specialized Association must be represented by an International Delegate at the WCET.

Part II: Complementary criteria

1. It is recommended the country demonstrates active participation in the WCET activities, i.e. having: members in the WCET committees AND/OR members attending WCET conferences AND/OR, members presenting oral or poster papers during WCET conferences AND/OR members sending manuscripts to WCET Journal, etc...
2. It is recommended the National Specialized Association organizes National conferences focused on the specialty regularly;
3. It is recommended the country/ National Specialized Association has a specific website dedicated to the specialty of wound, ostomy and continence care;
4. It is recommended the country/ National Specialized Association has a professional specialized journal or bulletin (in ostomy and/or wound and/or continence care).

A Memorandum of Understanding between the WCET and country's specialized Association for ETNEP/REPs automatic recognition can be obtained just if the country succeeds to achieve all of the obligatory criteria (1 to 6) and, at least, one of the complementary ones (1 to 4).

Procedures

To request the MOU, the candidate (ET/ WOC Association) must send a letter to the WCET Education Committee Chairperson and including all documents to accomplish the previous obligatory and complementary criteria.

WCET Education Committee
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