

My journey to being a CWON started as a bedside nurse at a 400 bed facility that had just two certified Wound /Ostomy nurses for the entire facility. I saw how dedicated these CWONs were despite the heavy daily workload. As a bedside nurse on renal/urology floor for more than 5 years, I cared for lots of patients with ostomy and wound issues. When the wound nurse was looking for “Skin Champions”, I eagerly volunteered to be one for my unit to help my wound and ostomy patients. This increased my interest of becoming a CWON nurse. I pared down my workload from full-time to part-time to concentrate on my CWON certification.

Today, after completing my CWON curriculum, I am working per diem at both in-patient and out-patient facilities; all the while maintaining my part-time bedside nurse position. At the in-patient facility, I enjoy conducting stoma site markings as well as post-op care. I also teach new nurses about ostomy care during their orientation. I enjoy seeing my patients’ wounds progressively improve under my care.

Hopefully in the future, I will be able to mentor more “Skin Champions” and help them start their journey to becoming a CWON nurse.