COLUMNS

American Academy of Wound Management Update

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The American Academy of Wound Management (AAWM) continues as the preeminent certifying body for wound management professionals across multiple disciplines. Many exciting changes have occurred over the past 3 years.

- In 2007, the AAWM added another certification, the Certified Wound Care Associate (CWCA), for those medical personnel with less than a bachelor's degree education. The Certified Wound Specialist (CWS) eligibility criteria were then changed to require a bachelor's degree or higher in a life sciences-related field with 3 years of clinical experience in wound care and one of the following designated professions: MD, DO, DPM, RN, PA, PT, OT, DMD, or VMD.
- The AAWM has enjoyed unprecedented growth and recognition in the medical and wound care community. Currently there are more than 2,800 CWSs and almost 200 CWCAAs.
- The CWS is now accredited (effective 2007) by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), which is the

accreditation body of the National Organization for Competency Assurance. NCCA accredits certification programs based on the highest quality standards in professional certification. (Think of NCCA as the "Joint Commission" of the certification world.) AAWM joins an elite group of 79 organizations with 190 programs that have received and maintained the prestigious NCCA accreditation.

- The AAWM is currently developing a new certification for physicians, under the direction of the physician exam subcommittee and chair Dr. Richard Simman, which will be available soon as a progression from the CWS level for our MD, DO, and DPM diplomates. Please stay tuned for more information on this exciting endeavor.
- Make sure to promote your CWS in your hospitals, clinics, offices, and academic institutions as the gold standard for wound management professionals. Check our Web site often (www.aawm.org) for updated information and news.

I wish you all a successful and prosperous 2009.