

# Become a Board-Certified Wound Management Specialist

**APTA**  
**Specialist**  
**Certification**  
Governed by **ABPTS**

Follow Your Passion. Power Your Practice.

## What Every PT Should Know About Earning Board Certification in Wound Management

The American Physical Therapy Association is an individual membership professional organization representing 100,000 member physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy. APTA established the specialist certification program in 1978.

The American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties has certified over 30,000 individuals who have demonstrated advanced clinical knowledge and skills in physical therapist specialty areas. Profession-recognized specialty certification in wound management was approved in 2019.

The wound management clinical specialty certification was established to provide formal recognition for physical therapists with advanced clinical knowledge, experience, and skills in wound management and to assist consumers and members of the healthcare community in identifying these highly skilled individuals.

### Eligibility Criteria:

- Current permanent/unrestricted license to practice physical therapy in the United States or any of its possessions or territories.
- 2,000 hours of direct patient care as a licensed physical therapist in the area of wound management within the last 10 years; 25% (500) of these hours within the last three years.
- Or successful completion of an APTA-accredited post-professional clinical residency in wound management.
- Submission of one case report demonstrating specialty practice in wound management.
- Payment of application review and examination fees.

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ABPTS specialist certification is the only certification exclusively focused on the unique and highly specialized knowledge and skill of physical therapists in wound management.

**Examination Format:** Physical therapist specialty content of approximately 200 questions, with up to seven hours to complete. Exam is offered during a 2-week timeframe each year at testing sites throughout the U.S.

**Cost:** APTA members: \$1,335; Nonmembers: \$2,405

**Recertification:** Every 10 years

**Maintenance of Certification:** Evidence of the following professional activities in years three, six, and nine after passing the initial exam: 1) 200 hours of direct patient care, 2) professional development (includes a variety of professional activities as set forth by ABPTS), 3) a reflective portfolio submission on patient/client management in the area of wound management. In year 10, the specialist takes a 100-question recertification examination. APTA members: \$220; Nonmembers: \$400 in years three, six, and nine.

**Suggested Preparation Materials:** Wound Management Description of Specialty Practice (complimentary copy provided following application submission; also available for purchase in advance from [APTA store](#)).

**Apply for Certification:** Application deadline is **September 30, 2024** to take the Wound Management Specialization exam in 2025.

**For more information, please visit:** [abpts.org/Certification/WoundManagement](https://abpts.org/Certification/WoundManagement)