



Position paper wound seminars

of the “Initiative Chronische Wunden e.V.” related to qualification offers of personnel certification

1. What is the “Initiative Chronische Wunden ICW e.V.”?

The “Initiative Chronische Wunden ICW e.V.” (hereafter referred to as ICW) is an interprofessional specialist association operating at various levels both nationally and internationally to improve the medical care for people with chronic wounds.

2. What are the aims of the ICW?

ICW’s aim is to improve the prevention and recurrence of chronic wounds. It wants to optimise the care situation of those affected and the general conditions for care as well as to professionalise education and research in these areas. Recognised educational programs in the form of seminars for wound experts, wound therapists and wound care specialists are offered for this purpose. The concept developed by the “ICW” is nationally aligned by more than 140 educational institutions. In addition, the educational concept is successfully provided in the countries of Austria, China, Lebanon and Taiwan in their respective national contexts.

In the following the importance, tasks and role of the Woundexperts ICW®, the Physician Woundexperts ICW®, the Woundtherapists ICW® as well as the Woundcare specialists ICW® are described. It is also explained how one role builds upon the other as well as in how far they differ in content. They are based on the fundamental ethical, professional and legal requirements of the individual professional groups.

3. What basic attitude is expected of graduates of ICW qualifications?

All graduates of the “ICW/TÜV” qualifications are expected to act professionally taking vocational and social aspects into account.

The patient is to be considered as a self-determined being whose individuality must be respected. The objective is to promote quality of life and autonomy through a holistic and economic approach. An isolated consideration of the wound and its care under the aspects of a bio-medical model is thus excluded.

4. How can roles, tasks and fields of work be assigned to the qualifications?

The role and the understanding of the role as well as the fields of work and tasks to be taken over result from the basic occupational training and the additional qualification. The level of competence achieved plays an essential role.

4.1. Examples of suitable roles related to the qualifications

	Woundexpert ICW®	Physician Woundexpert ICW®	Woundtherapist ICW®	Woundcare specialist ICW®
Professional group	Therapeutic team *	Physician	Therapeutic team *	Registered nurse
Field of activity	Primary care for people with chronic wounds	Medical workplaces in the inpatient and outpatient areas of clinics, surgeries, outpatient clinics...	Areas of work in special units for wound care such as outpatient wound care, and/or - centre, wound care clinic	Workplaces in clinics and outpatient services, especially in senior positions, health services, medical and health care supplier

*The therapeutic team is assigned to the professional groups which are listed in Woundexpert ICW® (Registered nurses, physicians and podiatrists) **Further professional qualifications can only be accepted by application to the certification body.**

4.2. Recommendations for the organisational level in relation to qualifications

The figure shows the desired activity depending on the competence level of the ICW qualification using the example of a registered nurse. The qualification as a Physician Woundexpert ICW® remains unaffected due to the different access levels.

Basic occupational training	Registered nurse	Registered nurse	Registered nurse
Additional qualification	+Woundexpert ICW®	+Woundtherapist ICW®	+Woundcare specialist ICW®
Level of professional activity			
Micro level	X		
Meso level	X	X	
Macro level		X	X

4.3. Delimitation of competence level and legitimacy

The role is derived from basic professional training and additional qualification. Additional qualifications (= advanced training) do not automatically legitimise a different position in the inter-professional team as the applicable legal framework remains unaffected.

Example: Taking over the role as a wound consultant in a facility arises as a result of assignment by the supervisor. Whether and to what extent the employer makes a Woundexpert ICW®, a Woundtherapist ICW® or a Woundcare specialist ICW® available for this task is something that must be clarified on an individual basis.

ICW's stated objective is to define the additional qualification as a basis for this assignment. The respective role should be defined within the organisation in a job or/and task description. This approach avoids exceeding competences and defines the field of activity in terms of content and structure. ICW calls for wound care to be clarified in the sense of delegation, other ways of organisation are to be seen as critical.

4.4. Recommendation task assignment according to qualifications

The allocation of tasks (priorities) between the individual educational levels must be clearly regulated. The following table regarding Woundexperts ICW[®], Physician Woundexperts ICW[®], Woundtherapists ICW[®], Woundcare specialists ICW[®] and the expert standard DNQP "Care of people with chronic wounds" serves as an aid.

The educational activities promote competences in the following areas:

Graduation	Woundexpert ICW [®]	Physician Woundexpert ICW [®]	Woundtherapist ICW [®]	Woundcare specialist ICW [®]
Professional groups	Therapeutic team*	Physician (human med.)	Therapeutic team*	Registered nursing staff
Diagnostics in the context of wound treatment		X		
Therapy definition		X		
Professional wound care	X	X	X	X
Wound assessment	X	X	X	X
Wound documentation	X	X	X	X
Preventive actions	X		X	X
Accompanying therapies	X		X	X
Assessment of wound healing	X	X	X	X
Therapy evaluation		X	X	X
Patient education	X	X	X	X
Nursing diagnostic process				X
Consideration of the effect of therapy on the quality of life	X	X	X	X
Disease patterns of chronic wounds	X	X	X	X
Recurrence prophylaxis	X	X	X	X
Carrying out common causal and accompanying therapies	X		X	X
Carrying out advanced therapy		X	X	
Promoting health-related self-management				X
Evaluation of the measures (regarding quality of life/health-related self-management)				X
Case management				X
Coordination tasks				X
Team and patient-related communication			X	X
Management of a wound care unit		X	X	

The learning contents of the Woundexpert ICW[®] and the Woundtherapist ICW[®] are supplemented and expanded by the Woundcare specialist ICW[®] so that the latter fully corresponds to the qualification "Expert nurse" according to the German "DNQP" expert standard "Care of people with chronic wound".

5. What general conditions are necessary?

According to the examination regulations, a primary qualification is necessary for accessing ICW's education. Based on the acquired basic knowledge, the qualification and subsequently the competence are developed in the sense of a follow-up learning.

Necessary general conditions from ICW's perspective:

- Time and material resources
- Providing of the necessary materials and aids
- Fair payment
- Compensation for performance
- Clarification of responsibilities in an interdisciplinary team
- Possibility of participation in education and further training
- Data collection and evaluation
- Opinion formation in dialogue with other specialist companies
- Forming a consensus of opinion at European level

6. Why does ICW require re-certifications?

Rapidly evolving nursing and medical knowledge, short innovation cycles in the area of care products and aids as well as changing legal requirements and basic principles make it necessary for new findings and new developments to be communicated in a timely and regular manner.

The objectives of the re-certifications are thus clearly defined. There should be a deepening, expansion, consolidation and, if necessary, correction of the contents taught. Furthermore, it should also promote exchanges at a professional level.

In addition to the formal organisation of re-certification events, ICW" also attaches great importance to the informal exchange between colleagues and individual professional groups. This enhances the quality and value of a certificate. In the long term, networking leads to an increase in the quality of care and thus the quality of life of people with chronic wounds.

7. Contacts & responsibilities of the ICW /TÜV person certification

Can be found on our homepage at www.icwunden.de under the keyword contacts as well as in the form "contact information".