

The WCET® & Global Enterostomal Therapy Nursing Education

O WCET® & Educação Global em Enfermagem em Estomaterapia

El WCET® & Educación Global en Enfermería Estomacal

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HOW TO CITE

Hibbert D. The WCET® & Global Enterostomal Therapy Nursing Education. ESTIMA, Braz. J. Enterostomal Ther., 17: e2119. https://doi.org/10.30886/estima.v17.807_IN

Enterostomal Therapist is just one of the titles used globally to identify nurses trained in the specialty of ostomy, wound and continence nursing (OWC). Enterostomal Therapy involves components of expert clinical practice, education, leadership and research. Enterostomal Therapists (ETs) are entrusted to be accountable for using their expertise to provide consultation for patients, physicians, nurses, health care organisations and the public. As ETs we are responsible for our education, in developing our expertise and in ensuring our knowledge is up to date in order to base our practice on current evidence. We also need to be discerning enough to know when evidence warrants a change in practice and how to translate this evidence at the bedside for individual patients. The acquisition of knowledge, skills and competence required to develop the expertise necessary to care for patients with these complex conditions, is generally via formal education, clinical supervision and mentorship, experience gained over years working in the field, and last but not least self-study using the principles of adult learning.

The World Council of Enterostomal Therapists (WCET®) offers recognition of Enterostomal Therapy Nursing Education Programs (ETNEP) in OWC, and Recognised Education Programs (REP) in stoma, stoma/wound or stoma/continence, providing they meet the minimum required standard. The WCETs aim in providing help in program development and in its recognition, is an attempt to ensure that specialty expertise is available worldwide, to set a global minimum standard of safe care for patients, and also to help nursing and nursing educational organisations globally acquire acknowledgement, or a level of validity, for their program locally or nationally.

Globally both general and specialty nursing varies in relation to entry level, registration, credentialing, level and scope of practice and titles. In line with these international differences, national nurse education programs differ both at first and specialty level. Therefore, ET Nursing

may be practiced at specialty or an Advanced Practice Level. Education is provided using various models and standards may differ. Similarly, culture and therefore patient needs differ, as does the provision of health care from country to country. To this end WCET® ETNEPs and REPs differ in length, depth and method of provision, but all must meet the minimum required standard set out in the 2017 ETNEP/REP Recognition Process Guidelines available in English, Chinese, French and Portuguese (Brazilian) from <https://wocet.memberclicks.net/etnep-rep-education>.

The 2017 WCET® ETNEP/REP Recognition Process Guidelines provide information and instruction on these minimum requirements. Please see below for an adapted, condensed overview of some of the important points. For the full guidelines please visit the website link above.

All ETNEPs/REPs recognised by WCET® will have:

- A significant focus on professional development and on lifelong learning.
- A program developer who has completed a WCET® recognised ETNEP/REP (or is a WCET® approved consultant).
- Recognition of the program by the national nursing organization or the national ET nursing organization.
- ETNEP programs will have a minimum of 160 theory and 160 clinical supervised hours, while REP stoma will have a minimum of 55 theory and 55 clinical hours, and stoma/wound or stoma/continence REPs will have 110 theory and 110 clinical hours.
- The percentage of both theory and clinical hours will be equally divided between the specialties being studied with approximately 10-20% for professional development, depending on the number of hours.
- Clinical preceptors or supervisors must have completed a WCET® recognised program or have completed courses providing suitable alternative qualifications and expertise in their field.
- Ratio of students to clinical preceptors is no greater than 2:1.
- All institutions providing clinical placements will have suitable preceptors or supervisors, with sufficient patients to provide a minimum of six patients per day per two students.
- Lecturers and educators from nursing, medical and allied health professionals are utilised to teach and share their expertise within their fields.
- A virtual or actual library that contains current relevant texts, journals, websites and reference materials that ETNEP/REP students can access.
- Appropriate and adequate student evaluation.
- A document review by three education committee members, which will have been corroborated and validated during a site visit by an approved WCET® education committee member.

The WCET® presently has 62 ETNEP/REPs recognized across 22 countries, with 5 new programs currently at various stages of the process. It is the role of the WCET® Education Committee to provide guidance and support as necessary during this process of development, application and recognition of ETNEPs and REPs. As patient and nursing needs change, and as educational models and methods are updated, along with advances in technology, the WCET® will review and update these guidelines as necessary in order to continue to provide support for the advancement of the profession of nursing and in the care of patients with ostomy, wound and continence needs.

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