

CHRISTA A. BAKOS, RN, CWCN, DAPWCA  
Acute Hospital and Wound Care Expert

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 to Present  
Exigent Group Limited  
*Nursing, Wound Care Expert*

Provide technical investigations, analysis, reports, and testimony related to the standards of care in all levels of clinical and wound care. Specializing in nursing quality of care, training and education, and wound care in acute, outpatient care, home health, and extended care facilities.

2019 to present

Crystal Home Health  
*Registered Nurse*

- Assess patient's condition during visits and chart observations
- Perform evaluation tasks, including vital signs, medication review, and environment
- Administer medications as prescribed by the patient's physician
- Provide education and monitoring of medications prescribed by the physician
- Provide wound care as prescribed by the patient's physician
- Educate patient and families on proper home health care strategies and procedures
- Educate patient and families about the disease process and provide support in managing symptoms
- Act as a liaison between patient/family and physician
- Identify any impending or actual changes in the patient's condition and communicate with physician
- Identify any risks to the patient's safety
- Coordinate care with Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physicians and anyone else included in the patients individualized care plan
- Assess and make recommendations for equipment and tools that may improve the patient's quality of life
- Listen to the patient and respond to their concerns and requests
- Assess the home environment to ensure physical safety of patient

2018 to 2020  
Robson Forensic, Inc.  
*Nursing, Wound Care Expert*

Provide technical investigations, analysis, reports, and testimony related to the standards of care in all levels of clinical nursing, management and wound care. Cases involved in the following:

- Wounds (surgical, traumatic, pressure injuries/ulcers)
- Wound care and skin care
- Diabetes (Diabetic Ketoacidosis/Hypoglycemia)

- Alcohol and Drug withdrawal
- Cardiac Arrest (Code Blue)
- Home health
- Nursing care in correctional facilities
- Stroke
- Falls
- Sepsis (infection)
- Injuries sustained while hospitalized
- Ethics, Code of Conduct

2017 to  
2018

Gentell/Wound Care Concepts  
*Wound Education Specialist/RN*

- Provided education and support to facility personnel regarding wound care and Medicare Part B requirements
- Assisted facilities in establishing protocols/policy regarding wound care
- Educated facility personnel and Physicians on Medicare LCD guidelines.
- Monitored and managed the Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement report and trend reports with facility personnel
- Provided support in ordering products for Part B residents
- Provided oversight and education to facility staff, administration and corporate administration on appropriate documentation per State and Federal guidelines
- Provided educational support to facility staff and administration for survey preparation and result follow up
- Acted as a liaison between treatment nurses and Director of Nursing, Administrator and Regional Nurse
- Acted as a liaison between treatment nurse and physician
- Monitored outcomes and cost effectiveness of treatment plans
- Assisted with facility in setting goals and achieving optimal outcomes with conscious cost effectiveness
- Provided education and support to facility staff and residents with wound care dressings and treatments
- Engaged in staff self -development providing in-services as well as individual specific instruction and feedback

2015 to  
2017

Healogics  
*Clinical Nurse Manager/Clinical Coordinator, Contract Position at Presence St. Joseph's Hospital*

- Provided case management to patients providing specific assessments according to protocols and procedures, clinical competence in procedural skills, treatments, and patient/caregiver education related to wound care management
- Provided Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy patient assessment and chamber operation as required
- Organized and prioritized clinical responsibilities, provides direct supervision to clinical staff, (RN, LPN, MA, Med Assist, etc.)

- Collaborated with other health care providers, Wound Care Center Physicians, Program Director, and Medical Director regarding clinic and patient needs
- Consistently reviewed current processes and procedures and identified and implemented areas of improvement while adhering to HIPAA, JCAHO, DOH as well as hospital requirements
- Collaborated with Program Director and Medical Director to develop, implement and manage a continuous Performance Improvement Program (PIP)
- Engaged in staff development, providing general in-services as well as individual instruction and orientation
- Provided staff recognition through positive reinforcement and constructive feedback.
- Collaborated with Program Director in coordination of program objectives, from a budgetary and financial perspective
- Collaborated with Program Director and Medical Director to achieve Wound Care Center quality indicators
- Acted as case manager for patients in the wound care center. This included product procurement, follow up with physicians, diabetic counseling, social service needs, provide guidance for financial assistance, arrange home health, and provide emotional support

2003 to  
2015

Sherman Hospital

*Wound Care Center Clinical Coordinator (WON) 2012-2015*

- Ostomy care to include evaluation and management of stomas including pre-op teaching, marking, post-op education, maintenance, and enterostomal complications
- Evaluated and managed patients with wounds caused by disease, pressure, trauma, and/or surgical incisions
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary teams to assess and monitor patients progress during the healing phase
- Provided education and developed individualized and specific treatment plans for inpatient /outpatient needs
- Assisted surgeons in the Operating Room and at bedside for surgical procedures
- Developed department policies to ensure corporate compliance
- Managed and processed wound care charges to ensure compliance with CMS guidelines
- Participated and facilitated in the Hospital Acquired Pressure Ulcer and Corporate Wound Forum Council committees
- Established education, practice, and product roll out with respect to wound/skin/ostomy care
- Participated in meetings with hospital leadership and medical staff to expand and enhance the department
- Assumed daily leadership role of department including management of hours, patient satisfaction, doctor communication, sales representative meetings, trouble shooting, and problem solving as situations arise
- Considered a resource by physicians for wound care / ostomy recommendations

- Acted as case manager for patients in the wound care center. This included product procurement, follow up with physicians, diabetic counseling, social service needs, provided guidance for financial assistance, arranged home health, and provided emotional support
- Managed and monitored Negative Pressure Wound Therapy

*Float Pool Nurse (Critical Care, Intensive Care, Tele, Ortho/Neuro, General Surgical, Med Surgical, Transitional Care, Renal Oncology, Wound Center) 2003-2014*

- Cared for pre and post op Aortic Valve Replacement/Repair, Mitral Valve Replacement/Repair, Carotid Endarterectomy, femoral-popliteal bypass, coronary artery bypass, thoracotomy surgical patients
- Cared for acute angina, Congestive Heart Failure, Coronary Artery Disease, Acute Myocardial Infarction, and general cardiac patients
- Cared for pre and post cardiac and peripheral catheterization patients
- Cared for pre and post cardiac testing patients (Adenosine Thallium, GXT Thallium, Echocardiograms, Stress Echocardiograms)
- Cared for acute stroke/neuro patients
- Cared for critical patients including Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump, Continuous Venovenous Hemodialysis, Intra Cranial Pressure monitoring, Intravascular monitoring (SWAN GANZ, PA Pressures), Ventilated, Tracheotomy, Traumas, hypoglycemia, Diabetic Ketoacidosis.
- Cared for Pneumonia, Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome patients
- Post-op care for patients (Orthopedic, Craniotomy, Gynecological, General)
- Preceptor for newly graduated nurses, new employees, and students
- Charge nurse
- Inpatient and outpatient wound care

2000 to  
2003

Alexian Brothers Medical Center  
*Staff Telemetry Nurse*

- Cared for pre and post op Aortic Valve Replacement/Repair, Mitral Valve Replacement/Repair, Carotid Endarterectomy, femoral-popliteal bypass, coronary artery bypass, thoracotomy surgical patients
- Cared for acute angina, Congestive Heart Failure, Coronary Artery Disease, Acute Myocardial Infarction, and general cardiac patients
- Cared for pre and post cardiac and peripheral catheterization patients
- Cared for pre and post cardiac testing patients (Adenosine Thallium, GXT Thallium, Echocardiograms, Stress Echocardiograms)
- Preceptor for newly graduated nurses, new employees, and students
- Charge nurse

1993 to  
2000

Office of the DuPage County State's Attorney  
*Paralegal, Child Support Unit Paralegal*

- Supervised and maintained child support cases

- Assisted attorneys in court, petitioner/respondent contact, and legal research
- Served as liaison between States Attorney's Office and Illinois Department of Public Aid
- Considered a resource for civil litigation/case preparation

*Paralegal, Civil Division*

- Supervised and maintained County collections cases
- Assisted attorneys in court, petitioner/respondent contact, and legal research
- Served as liaison between States Attorney's Office and various County departments
- Considered a resource for civil litigation/case preparation

**PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS**

Registered Nurse: Illinois  
Certified Wound Care Nurse (CWCN)  
ABA Certified Paralegal  
American Heart Association Basic Life Support (CPR and AED)  
Diplomate of the American Professional Wound Care Association

**EDUCATION**

B.A., Political Science, Ames, Iowa, 1992  
A.D.N., Nursing, College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, 2000  
Wound and Ostomy Program, Metropolitan State University, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2013  
Certificate in Paralegal Studies, Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois, 1992

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

AAWC – Association for the Advancement of Wound Care  
ANA – American Nurses Association  
ANA of Illinois – American Nurses Association of Illinois  
Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

**ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE EXPERIENCE**

Cared for patients for patients in Critical Care and Intensive Care:

Aortic Valve Replacement/Repair  
Mitral Valve Replacement/Repair  
Femoral-Popliteal Bypass  
Coronary Artery Bypass  
Thoracotomy  
General Surgical  
Pneumonia  
Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome  
Acute Myocardial Infarction  
Acute Stroke

Congestive Heart Failure  
Coronary Artery Disease  
Traumatic (Gun shot, Motor Vehicle Accident, Stabbing)  
Diabetic Ketoacidosis  
Hypoglycemia  
Intra-Aortic Balloon Pump  
Continuous Veno-Venous Hemodialysis  
Craniotomy  
Orthopedic  
Obstetric/Gynecological

Cared for acute care patients on Cardiac Monitored Units, General Surgical Unit, Renal/Oncology Unit, Orthopedic Unit, and Neurological Unit  
Provided pre/post education on surgical patients  
Provided pre/post education and care on cardiac testing patients  
Provided pre/post education and care on cardiac/peripheral catheterization patients  
Provided care for inpatient hospice patients  
Assigned Charge nurse  
Discharge education  
Member of the Code Blue Team  
Assigned Preceptor for new employees, new graduates and students

#### **ACUTE/INPATIENT WOUND/OSTOMY CARE EXPERIENCE**

Evaluate, recommend, and manage patients with wounds caused by disease, pressure, trauma and/or surgical incisions  
Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams to assess, treat, and monitor progress during healing phase  
Provide education and developed individualized and specific treatment plans for inpatient care  
Assisted surgeons in the operating room and at bedside for surgical procedures  
Managed and monitored Negative Pressure Wound Therapy  
Ostomy care, to include evaluation and management of ostomates including pre-op education, marking, post-op education, support and maintenance of enterostomal complications  
Developed department policies to ensure corporate compliance  
Managed and trained Medical and Nursing staff of the Wound Care Department.  
Participated and facilitated the Hospital Acquired Pressure Ulcer prevalence study  
Established policies and procedures for pressure ulcer prevention following the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel guidelines  
Educated hospital staff on pressure ulcer prevention  
Established hospital wide education, practice and product roll out with respect to wound/skin/ostomy care  
Considered a resource by physicians for wound care/ostomy recommendations  
Acted as a case manager for wound care patients, establishing and organizing discharge needs  
Assumed daily leadership role of Wound Care Department including management of hours, patient satisfaction, doctor communication, trouble shooting, problem solving, and budget supervision

## **OUTPATIENT WOUND CARE/HYPERBARIC MEDICINE CENTER EXPERIENCE**

Managed and treated patients with wounds including:

- Diabetic foot/leg ulcers
- Arterial Ulcers
- Venous Ulcers
- Traumatic Wounds
- Pressure ulcers
- Chronic Wounds
- Non-healing Surgical Wounds
- Skin grafts
- Radiation injuries
- Burns

Assessed patients for possible candidacy for Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Chamber operation and supervision

Provide assessment and treatment of wound care patients

Assisted physician with bedside procedures

Educated and trained Medical and Nursing staff on policies, procedures and standards of care

Reviewed current processes and procedures to identify areas of improvement and implement changes to adhere to HIPAA, JCAHO, DOH, as well as hospital and CMS requirements

## **WOUND EDUCATION SPECIALIST EXPERIENCE**

Provided education and support to nursing facilities regarding wound care

Assisted nursing facilities in establishing wound care policies and protocols

Educated nurses and physicians on Medicare LCD requirements and CMS documentation criteria

Monitored QAPI and wound trend reports

Provided oversight and staff/physician education on appropriate documentation per State and Federal Guidelines

Monitored outcomes and cost effectiveness of treatment plans

Engaged in staff self-development providing in-services as well as individual specific instruction and feedback

Provided case management for patients with wounds including specific assessments, procedures, treatment, diagnostic studies, education, and support

## **ABA CERTIFIED PARALEGAL EXPERIENCE**

Supervised and maintained child support cases

Assisted attorneys in court, petitioner/respondent contact, and legal research

Served as liaison between States Attorney's Office and Illinois Department of Public Aid

Considered a resource for civil litigation/case preparation

Supervised and maintained county collection cases

Assisted attorneys in court, petitioner/respondent contact, and legal research

Served as liaison between States Attorney's Office and various County departments

Considered a resource for civil litigation/case preparation

Assisted attorney's with deposition preparation