



## **Guidelines for WCET Enterostomal Therapy Nursing Education Programs (ETNEPs)**

Enterostomal Therapy Nurses care for people with stomas, wounds, fistulae, incontinence, draining and feeding tubes and associated skin problems. ET nurses are registered nurses with post-graduate experience who have completed a WCET recognised enterostomal therapy nursing education program (ETNEP) and are dedicated to provide care for people in both hospital and community settings.

Enterostomal Therapy Nurses – specialised nurses who care primarily for people with stomas – have many titles: for example 'stoma care nurse', 'stomal therapist', and 'wound, ostomy and continence nurse'. Since the WCET uses the term 'enterostomal therapists' as part of its name, it seems appropriate to use that terminology as the working language.

**ETNEPs are available in many countries of the world. In order to be recognised by the WCET, an ETNEP should satisfy the following criteria.**

1. The ETNEP should have an ET nursing director or consultant involved with developing or reviewing the program
2. The ETNEP ET nursing director or consultant should have completed a WCET recognized ETNEP
3. The ETNEP ET nursing director or consultant should be a current member of WCET
4. The ETNEP should include 160 theoretical hours and 160 clinical hours (or its equivalent)
5. The ETNEP may be offered in a full, split, extended, or distance mode
6. The ETNEP should include comprehensive, continuous assessments of theoretical knowledge and clinical skills
7. The ETNEP curriculum should include ET nursing practice (ostomy, wound, fistula and tube care & continence), education, research, management and professional development
8. The ETNEP student should be a registered nurse with a current licence to practise in the ETNEP country





9. The ETNEP should be recognized by the national nursing organization or the national ET nursing organization
10. The clinical ET nurse preceptors should have completed WCET recognized programs
11. The ratio of students to clinical preceptors should ideally be no greater than two (2) to one (1)
12. The nursing, medical and para-medical advisors/tutors should have expertise in administration, continence, counselling (grief, sexual and general), dermatology, gastroenterology, home care, long term care, nutrition, oncology, palliative care, paediatrics, pharmacology, surgery (colo-rectal, gynaecology, paediatric, plastic, urology, vascular), radiology, rehabilitation, wounds
13. The ETNEP students should be exposed to all products available in the country
14. The ETNEP students should be encouraged to join WCET as associate members on enrolment and Members on completion of the program
15. The ETNEP should use a WCET on site tutor if the ETNEP is the first program in the country
16. The ETNEP director should require an officially recognised language testing before accepting students who have other than the program language as their primary language
17. Text books and reference material should be current. References should come from national as well as international sources.

Those interested in developing a new ETNEP or preparing an existing program for WCET recognition should contact the WCET Central Office for an application form. The WCET Education Committee reviews all ETNEPs every 4 years to ensure WCET guidelines are met.

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