

# Wound Care Assessment & Clinical Practice in Senior Living

Wound Assessment, Infection Control & Patient-Centered Care Certificate for Senior Living & Memory Care

*A competency-based certificate program for CNAs, LPNs, and LVNs working in senior living, memory care, and long-term care settings.*

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING | SENIOR LIVING & MEMORY CARE

## 1. Course Summary

Senior living and memory care communities are a critical and growing segment of the U.S. healthcare continuum, providing residential care, chronic disease management, and daily health support to millions of older adults. As one of the largest and fastest-growing healthcare workforce sectors — driven by demographic shifts, increasing resident acuity, and rising regulatory complexity — senior living employers face acute and ongoing workforce development demands that directly affect the quality and continuity of healthcare delivery in their communities. Investing in the senior living workforce is an investment in the healthcare system that millions of families depend on.

Wound Care Assessment & Clinical Practice in Senior Living is a 20-hour, competency-based certificate program delivered by An Embrace of Learning, a specialized workforce training provider focused exclusively on senior living, memory care, and long-term care professionals. The program equips CNAs, LPNs, and LVNs with the clinical assessment, infection control, nutritional support, and patient-centered wound care skills necessary to manage complex wound presentations across care, wellness, and nursing departments in senior living and memory care communities. The curriculum includes targeted skill development in wound staging, pressure injury prevention, advanced wound care product selection, and diagnostic tool interpretation that exceeds minimum state training requirements. Wound-related complications remain one of the most common drivers of adverse events, regulatory citations, and avoidable hospitalizations in senior living — yet wound care skill development is among the most underfunded areas of LTC workforce training. The program supports Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) goals by retaining experienced clinical staff, upgrading skills at the point of expanded clinical responsibility, and reducing turnover in key caregiving and nursing roles through targeted, job-specific skills training tied to documented workforce performance needs and senior living regulatory compliance requirements.

This program is classified as non-core, incumbent worker upskilling and is not part of routine onboarding, compliance training, or required in-service education. It is not tied to mandatory certifications or regulatory compliance; rather, it represents an investment in skill advancement and organizational competitiveness.

20

TOTAL HOURS

13

MODULES

4

LEARNING PHASES

## 2. Target Participants — Incumbent Workers

Typical participants are full-time, permanent employees at least six months into their current caregiving or nursing position, nominated for expanded wound care responsibilities based on demonstrated performance and clinical aptitude. The program is designed for frontline clinical staff across all care settings:

- CNA / Care Associate taking on expanded wound monitoring, documentation, and wound care aide responsibilities
- LPN / LVN assigned to wound care team, charge nursing, or care lead roles requiring advanced wound assessment and product selection skills
- Charge Nurse or Care Lead responsible for wound care documentation, pressure injury prevention protocols, and interdisciplinary team coordination
- Assisted living or memory care staff in communities with high-acuity residents requiring complex wound management, including diabetic, venous, arterial, and pressure-related wounds

All participants are full-time, permanent employees in good standing, actively employed in a senior living or memory care community. The program is appropriate for both staff assigned to formal wound care team roles and high-potential caregiving staff in a structured clinical advancement track.

### 3. Learning Objectives — Skills-Based Competency Upgrade

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Trainees completing this program upgrade their skills and build competency in the following areas:

- Identify and classify wound types — including pressure injuries (Stage I–IV, unstageable, and deep tissue injury), venous ulcers, arterial ulcers, and diabetic foot ulcers — using established staging criteria and assessment tools at a skill level that exceeds minimum state training requirements
- Apply structured wound assessment techniques — including the PUSH tool, wound measurement protocols, and healing intention classification — to document wound status, recognize deterioration, and initiate appropriate escalation in accordance with community policy and documentation requirements
- Interpret and apply diagnostic laboratory data — including CBC, serum albumin, prealbumin, C-reactive protein (CRP), ESR, and blood glucose levels — to evaluate resident wound healing status and nutritional risk, and coordinate effectively with the interdisciplinary care team
- Implement targeted nutritional interventions to support wound healing, including protein supplementation, hydration management, and micronutrient support aligned with current wound care best practices for long-term care settings
- Apply infection control protocols specific to wound care — including wound cleansing technique, antimicrobial product selection, swab culture procedure recognition, and early identification of wound infection signs — to prevent complications and reduce community-acquired infection risk
- Select and apply advanced wound care products — including antimicrobial dressings, foam dressings, alginate, hydrocolloid, collagen-based products, enzymatic debridement agents, and barrier products — based on wound characteristics, exudate level, infection status, and patient-specific contraindications
- Implement pressure injury prevention and management strategies — including repositioning schedules, pressure redistribution device selection, and specialized bariatric patient wound care considerations — that reduce pressure injury incidence in the care environment
- Provide patient-centered wound care through empathetic communication, stigma-reduction techniques, and resident education strategies that support adherence to wound care plans, smoking cessation counseling, and improved resident healing outcomes
- Apply ostomy care techniques, including peristomal skin management and moisture-associated skin damage (MASD) prevention and treatment using the crusting technique and advanced liquid skin protectants, aligned with current best practices for long-term care settings

Each of these competencies is directly applicable to the daily responsibilities of participating CNAs, LPNs, and LVNs, who regularly encounter wound assessment decisions, infection recognition, dressing selection, nutritional screening, and care coordination as part of their clinical caregiving and nursing roles. This course focuses on job-specific skills training tied to specific, documented job performance needs and state-recognized compliance requirements in assisted living, memory care, and senior living settings.

### 4. Course Content and Format

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Training is delivered over 20 hours using a structured blended model: 4 hours of online instruction followed by 16 hours of customized on-the-job training (OJT) completed at the trainee's worksite. The customized OJT component moves skill acquisition directly into the trainee's live clinical care environment.

The curriculum is organized across 13 modules in four structured phases:

1	<p><b>Phase 1 — Wound Care Foundations &amp; The Crisis in Senior Living</b></p> <p>Introduction to the wound care landscape in long-term care, including the scope of the wound care crisis affecting senior living communities nationwide. Covers wound type identification — pressure injuries (Stages I–IV, unstageable, deep tissue injury), venous ulcers, arterial ulcers, and diabetic foot ulcers — and the biological, systemic, and environmental factors that influence wound formation and healing in older adult populations.</p>
2	<p><b>Phase 2 — Clinical Assessment, Nutritional Support &amp; Diagnostic Applications</b></p> <p>Applied wound assessment techniques using validated tools including the PUSH tool, wound measurement, and healing intention classification. Nutritional screening and intervention strategies — protein, hydration, micronutrients — tied to wound healing outcomes. Interpretation and application of clinical diagnostic tools: CBC, serum albumin, prealbumin, CRP, ESR, blood glucose monitoring, X-rays, ultrasounds, MRI/CT scans, swab cultures, tissue biopsies, and PCR/molecular diagnostics as used in wound care decision-making.</p>
3	<p><b>Phase 3 — Treatment Protocols: Ostomy, Infection Control, Pressure Injuries &amp; Advanced Products</b></p> <p>Ostomy care essentials including stoma management, peristomal moisture-associated skin damage (PMASD) prevention, and the crusting technique. Infection control protocols: wound cleansing, antimicrobial product selection (Anasept, Silvadorb, Medihoney), and infection recognition. Pressure injury prevention and management: repositioning schedules, pressure redistribution devices, and skin assessment protocols. Advanced wound care products: antimicrobial, foam, alginate, hydrocolloid, and collagen-based dressings; enzymatic debridement; moisture control and barrier products; hypertonic and sodium-based dressings; and combination therapy strategies including Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT).</p>
4	<p><b>Phase 4 — Special Populations, Patient-Centered Practice &amp; Continuous Improvement</b></p> <p>Wound and skin health considerations for bariatric patients: skin fold management, safe repositioning techniques, lymphedema awareness, and weight-bias-free communication. Patient-centered wound care: effective patient education, communication strategies, stigma and shame reduction for wound and ostomy patients, smoking cessation counseling, and incorporating patient feedback into care plans. Concluding module: key takeaways across all wound care competencies, holistic assessment, teamwork and interdisciplinary collaboration, and lifelong learning practices for wound care staff.</p>

<b>Total Hours</b>	20 hours
<b>Delivery Format</b>	4 hrs online instruction + 16 hrs customized on-the-job training (OJT) at trainee's worksite
<b>OJT Location</b>	Completed on-site at the employer's facility; customized to trainee's clinical role and active care assignments
<b>Modules</b>	13 structured modules
<b>Certificate</b>	Certificate of completion issued upon passing a final competency assessment to assess skill attainment
<b>Eligible Departments / Roles</b>	Care/Wellness, Nursing (CNAs, LPNs, LVNs, Charge Nurses, Care Leads); all senior living and memory care communities

<b>Cost</b>	\$3,000 per participant   Group pricing available for cohorts of 5 or more
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## About Embrace Learning

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An Embrace of Learning is a specialized workforce training provider focused on long-term care professionals. The organization designs and delivers evidence-based training programs in wound care, infection control, pressure injury prevention, dementia care, supervisory practice, and behavioral communication — developed specifically for staff and supervisors working in senior living, memory care, assisted living, and skilled nursing environments. Every curriculum is built from the ground up for the senior living workforce — not adapted from general professional development content — grounded in the operational and clinical realities that frontline workers, supervisors, and administrators face every shift. Programs are designed for every department and every role, and are aligned with CMS, AHCA, and applicable state survey standards for long-term care settings.

Phone: 502-208-9834 Email: <a href="mailto:info@anembraceoflearning.com">info@anembraceoflearning.com</a>	Web: <a href="http://embraceclx.com">embraceclx.com</a> Address: 9403 Mill Brook Road, Ste 100, Louisville, KY 40223
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