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EDUCATION IN WOUND HEALING IN GERMANY: THE DGFW CURRICULUM

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The dissemination of a consistent high level education to all practitioners involved in wound care is fundamental to improve the quality of care. The DGfW developed from 2006-2008 an evidence-based wound-care curriculum divided into two levels.

The curriculum was approved by three consensus conferences of the Association of the Scientific Medical Societies (AWMF) in Germany. In the conferences were 78 representatives of academic, research, medical and nursing wound-care societies and patient groups involved.

The wound-care curriculum represents a wide spread training program that offers scientific, medical and nursing knowledge consists by two different courses. The first step requires 84 hours of training leading to get the 'Certified Wound Assistant' degree (WA cert). The second step offers 236 hours to the degree of a 'Certified Wound Therapist' (WT cert). The letters 'cert' abbreviates 'certified' and stands for an *accredited certification process*, according to European rules.

The training program itself can be performed at any training centre in Germany, Switzerland and Austria. Up to now around 156 nurses and doctors have passed the step one and 30 'students' the step two within these centres. DGfW is responsible for the 'train the trainer' program and controls the exams.