

## Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

### YOUR PART B QUESTIONS ANSWERED: Remember to Represent Pressure Ulcer's Stage

Question: An established elderly patient reports to our physician for inspection of sores on her back. The doctor diagnoses a stage I pressure ulcer on her lower back and refers the patient to a dermatologist for treatment of the ulcer after a level-three E/M. How should I report this diagnosis?

Answer: You should submit a pair of codes: one to represent the stage of the pressure ulcer and another for the ulcer itself. On the claim, report the following:

- 99213 (Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of an established patient...) for the E/M;
- 707.03 (Pressure ulcer; lower back) appended to 99213 to represent the pressure ulcer; and
- 707.21 (Pressure ulcer stage I) appended to 99213 to represent the pressure ulcer's stage.

Explanation: Use the "stage" codes (707.2x) to describe the status of the patient's wound -- but code the ulcer location first using 707.00-707.09.