

## Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

### You Be the Coder: Solve This Pressure Ulcer Puzzle

Question: Our patient has a stage 3 pressure ulcer on his right buttock, a stage 2 pressure ulcer on his left buttock, a stage 1 pressure ulcer on his left heel, and a closed stage 4 pressure ulcer on his elbow. How should we code for him?

Answer: Code for this patient as follows, suggests **Trish Twombly, BSN, RN, HCS-D, CHCE, COS-C**, director of coding with **Foundation Management Services** in Denton, Texas:

- M1020a: 707.05 (Pressure ulcer; buttock);
- M1022b: 707.23 (Pressure ulcer; stage III);
- M1022c: 707.22 (Pressure ulcer; stage II);
- M1022d: 707.07 (Pressure ulcer; heel);
- M1022e: 707.21 (Pressure ulcer; stage I); and
- M1022f: 707.01 (Pressure ulcer; elbow).

This patient has bilateral pressure ulcers of differing stages on his buttocks. To code for these, you need only list the site one time. But you'll list a code for each stage following the site code.

Your patient's pressure ulcer of the elbow is closed, but OASIS-C guidelines hold that stage 3 or 4 pressure ulcers never heal. So, you'll need to report the stage 4 pressure ulcer even though it is closed.