

MDS Alert

CODING QUIZZER: How Would You Code Two Decubs That Have Merged Into One?

"On admission, the resident has three small Stage 2 pressure ulcers on her coccyx. Two weeks later, the coccyx is assessed. Two of the Stage 2 pressure ulcers have merged and the third has worsened to a Stage 3 pressure ulcer."

Source: RAI User's Manual

"Coding: The two merged pressure ulcers would be coded at M0300B1 [number of stage 2 pressure ulcers] as 1, and at M0300B2 as 1, present on admission. The Stage 3 pressure ulcer would be coded at M0300C1 [number of stage 3 pressure ulcers] as 1, and at M0300C2 as 0, not present on admission," states the RAI User's Manual.

"Rationale: Two of the pressure ulcers on the coccyx have merged, but have remained at the same stage as they were at the time of admission; the one that increased to a Stage 3 has increased in stage since admission and hence cannot be coded as present on admission."