

## MDS Alert

### Documentation: Ensure The Clinical Record And Care Plan Back Up The MDS For Wounds

**If they don't, you could end up doing some serious backtracking with auditors.**

Providing expert wound care and coding it correctly on the MDS aren't enough. You have to document the care consistently in residents' medical records.

**A big problem:** "The way that wound care is evolving in nursing homes, one nurse usually does the wound care and treatments. And that person may maintain those records separately," says **Patricia Boyer**, principal with **Boyer and Associates** in Brookfield, WI.

**Proactive strategy:** Facilities "need to get that information into the resident's clinical record, including how the wound appeared daily and when they did a dressing change," says Boyer.

**Also:** Record the wound interventions in the plan of care. **Gail Robison, RN, RAC-C**, with **Boyer & Associates**, finds that interventions are sometimes on the wound-care sheet but not on the care plan.