

## OASIS Alert

### Diagnosis Coding: 2 Rules Make Staging Codes For Multiple Wounds A Breeze

**You don't need to repeat staging codes to recoup deserved reimbursement.**

OASIS demands that you code the stages of your patient's multiple wounds, but it doesn't have to give you a headache. Follow these rules to whip up wound stage codes in no time.

Rule #1: When a patient's wounds are at the same stage, you only need to use the staging code once, says **Marianna Rone**, director of clinical services for **Healthcare Provider Solutions** in Nashville, TN.

Example: Your patient has a pressure ulcer on her hip and on her heel that are both at stage II. You should code:

- 707.04 (Decubitus ulcer, hip)
- 707.07 (Decubitus ulcer, heel)
- 707.22 (Pressure ulcer stage II)

Rule #2: When a patient's wounds are at different stages, you should list the most severe one first followed by its stage and then code the additional ones, Rone says.

Example: Your patient has a stage IV pressure ulcer on her hip and a stage III pressure ulcer on her heel. You should code:

- 707.04 (Decubitus ulcer, Hip)
- 707.24 (Pressure ulcer, Stage IV)
- 707.07 (Decubitus ulcer, Heel)
- 707.23 (Pressure ulcer, Stage III).