

## OASIS Alert

### Education: How Good Are You At Identifying Leg Ulcers?

**Q:** For the OASIS assessment, is an arterial skin ulcer the same as a stasis ulcer?

**A:** No. M0468 (Does this patient have a stasis ulcer?) specifically excludes arterial circulatory lesions or arterial ulcers. Arterial ulcers and venous stasis ulcers are distinct entities, according to the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** questions and answers at last year's OASIS Educator's Conference in New Orleans. Check with the physician to be sure you know the root cause of the ulcer, CMS adds.

**Check out this resource:** The **Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society** provides a two-page "clinical fact sheet" outlining the difference between leg ulcers caused by venous insufficiency (stasis), arterial insufficiency and peripheral neuropathy at [www.wocn.org/pdf/C\\_QUICK1.pdf](http://www.wocn.org/pdf/C_QUICK1.pdf).