

## OASIS Alert

### Reader Question : DEHISCED WOUND OR ULCER: HOW DO YOU TELL?

OASIS wound classifications continue to confuse clinicians.

Question: We have a patient who was admitted to service following a revision of a pedicle or flap graft (procedure code 8675). At recertification, this wound is being called a dehisced surgical wound as it was at start of care.

Does this remain a dehisced surgical wound or is it now a pressure ulcer since the flap procedure has failed? The depth is 2 cm and the wound bed is 50/50 granulation/hard black eschar. Wound length is 7cm, width 2cm.

Answer: If the current wound began with dehiscence of the flap, it is still a dehisced wound, says wound expert **Dorothy Doughty**, director of the **Wound Ostomy Continence Nursing Education Center** at **Emory University** in Atlanta. If the flap had healed and subsequently broken down, it would be a pressure ulcer, she explains.