

OASIS Alert

Reader Question: Does It Matter Whether A Device Functions?

Here's another surgical wound dilemma.

Question: We admitted a patient with a venous access device which is still present but non-functioning and currently unusable for dialysis. We are debating whether this is still a surgical wound. Can we count it for M0482 through M0488?

Answer: Yes. In Question 26 of the July 2006 OASIS questions and answers, the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** says that as long as the venous access device is still in place, it is considered to be a surgical wound. It does not matter whether the device is being used or is even functional, CMS instructs.

Note: The July 2006 OASISQ&As are available at www.oasiscertificate.org/displayassociationlinks.cfm.