

Pressure or decubitus ulcers are injuries to the skin that developed from prolonged pressure on the skin. These are most often developed on bony areas of the body such as the ankles, heels, hips, and tailbones.

Non-pressure ulcers are caused by poor circulation, which in turn is caused by venous or arterial insufficiency.

Four stages of Pressure ulcers:

- Stage 1- Discolored skin
- Stage 2- Superficial damage of the skin
- Stage 3- Deeper wound, open wound to the fatty layer of skin
- Stage 4- Most severe, wound extends to the bone are prone to infection, which can be life threatening.

Sign and Symptoms:

- Changes in skin color or texture
- Swelling
- Pus-like draining.
- Inability to concentrate.
- Area of skin feels cooler or warmer to touch than any other areas.
- Tender areas

Common Areas

- Tailbone or buttocks
- Shoulder blades
- Spine
- Back or side of the head
- Hip, lower back or tailbone
- Heels, ankles, and skin behind the knees

Risk Factors

- Immobility
- Incontinence
- Lack of sensory perception
- Poor nutrition and hydration
- Medical conditions affecting blood flow.

Diagnostics Testing

- Reviewing of systems of area where ulcer is located.
- Physical exam

Treatment

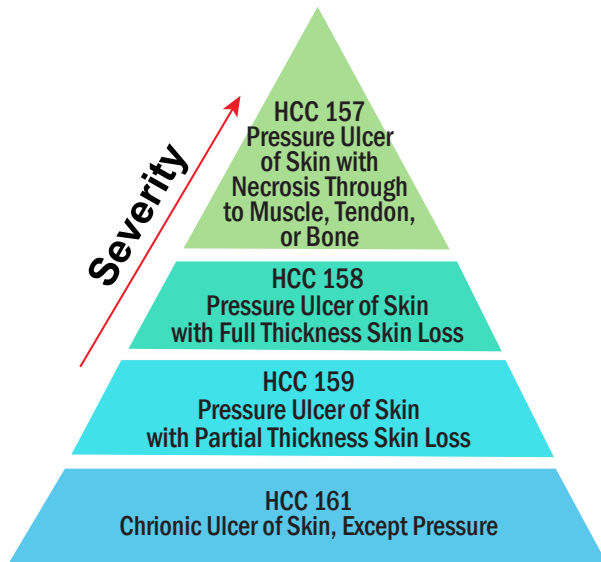
- Monitor the ulcer(s)
- Wound Care
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Neuros, vascular, orthopedic, or plastic surgery

Clinical Documentation and Coding Tips

SOAP Notes documentation tips:

- **Subjective** – Document the presence or absence of any current symptoms or conditions related to pressure ulcers.
- **Objective** – Document signs and symptoms or conditions and labs/test results related to pressure ulcer.
- **Assessment** – Describe each final diagnosis clearly, concisely and to the highest level of specificity. Use all applicable descriptors.
- **Plan** – Document and link all medications used to treat pressure ulcers and or condition caused by it. Detail any referrals, consultations, labs, or diagnostic testing requested.

Coding Pressure Ulcer



ICD 10- CM Data	Description
L89.00- L89.029	Pressure Ulcer of Elbow
L89.00- L89.149	Pressure Ulcer of Back
L89.150- L89.1549	Pressure Ulcer of Sacral Region
L89.200- L89.229	Pressure Ulcer of Hip
L89.300- L89.46	Pressure Ulcer of Buttock
L89.500-L89.529	Pressure Ulcer of Ankle
L89.600- L89.629	Pressure Ulcer of the heel
L89.810-L89.819	Pressure Ulcer of head
L89.890- L89.96	Pressure Ulcer of unspecified site
L97.101-L97.129	Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of thigh
L97.201-L97.229	Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of calf
L97.301-L97.329	Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of ankle
L97.401-L97.429	Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of heel
L97.501-L97.529	Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of foot
L97.801-L97.829	Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of other part of the leg
L97.901-L97.929	Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of unspecified part of the leg

L98.411- L98.419 Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of buttocks

L98.421-L98.429 Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of back

L98.491-L98.499 Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of skin other sites

Medicare Hierarchal Condition Categories (HCC)

Hierarchical condition category (HCC) coding is a risk-adjustment model designed to estimate future health care costs for patients. This model filters ICD-10CM codes into diagnosis groups (DxGs), and then into Conditions Categories (CCs). Hierarchies or families are placed to gain an HCC numeric code, which translates to a risk adjustment factor (RAF) value. Each diagnosis code found in the model, as a stand-alone diagnosis code or within a family or hierarchy, carries a value through RAF, but this value can change if the patient has other influencing factors such as ESRD, hospice, or are dual-eligible. Families or hierarchies set a value based on severity of illness, with more severe diagnoses carrying the overall risk score for that family. Diagnoses within families or hierarchies are inclusive of one another, while any additional diagnoses from other hierarchies or stand-alone diagnoses are additive and increase each patient's overall risk score.

Pressure ulcer is a condition that falls within the category "Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous" (157,158,159,161) with an average RAF Score of 2.463, 1.471, 0.863, 0.727 respectively.

Always Remember

- Code the site, laterality, and stage of pressure ulcer
- Be sure to identify if the pressure ulcer is chronic or a non-pressure ulcer.
- Identify the medical condition causing the ulcer and include in the documentation for HCC coding.
- For example, Diabetes Mellitus with foot ulcer or other skin ulcer (E11.21, E11.22)