

## New Codes for Deep Pressure-Induced Tissue Damage-Effective October 01, 2019 (FY 2020)-Pressure and Non Pressure Ulcer ICD-10 Coding Changes

---

### July 25, 2019

Clinicians will soon be able to better identify and track deep pressure-induced tissue damage in their patients for surveillance and quality improvement purposes. Several new ICD-10-CM codes under category L89 Pressure ulcer clear up the confusion that was created between the diagnosis code set and promulgated clinical literature.

*In the previous staging system, Stage 1 and deep tissue injury described injured intact skin, while the other stages described open ulcers. According to the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP), this led to confusion because the ICD-10-CM definitions for each of the stages referred to the injuries as “pressure ulcers.” The new codes expressly state “pressure-induced deep tissue damage.”*

#### **Definition of a Pressure Injury**

**Pressure injury is now described as** “localized damage to the skin and/or underlying soft tissue usually over a bony prominence or related to a medical or other device. The injury can present as intact skin or an open ulcer and may be painful. The injury occurs as a result of intense and/or prolonged pressure or pressure in combination with shear. The tolerance of soft tissue for pressure and shear may also be affected by microclimate, nutrition, perfusion, co-morbidities and condition of the soft tissue.”

#### **Definition of a Deep Tissue Injury**

**Deep tissue injury is now defined as** “intact or non-intact skin with localized area of persistent non-blanchable deep red, maroon, purple discoloration or epidermal separation revealing a dark wound bed or blood filled blister. Pain and temperature change often precedes skin color changes. Discoloration may appear differently in darkly pigmented skin. This condition results from intense and/or prolonged pressure and shear forces at the bone-muscle interface. The wound may evolve rapidly to reveal the actual extent of tissue injury, or may resolve without tissue loss.”

#### **Coding Deep Tissue Injuries**

“Deep tissue injury” is indexed to Ulcer, pressure, unstageable, and then by site. “However,” the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality reasoned at the ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee meeting on Sept. 12, 2018, “unstageable ulcers can ONLY be Stage 3 or 4 by definition (‘full-thickness skin and tissue loss in which the extent of tissue damage within the ulcer cannot be confirmed because it is obscured by slough or eschar. If slough or eschar is removed, a Stage 3 or Stage 4 pressure injury will be revealed.’). By contrast, deep tissue injury may resolve without tissue loss. In addition, deep tissue injuries often have a combined etiology involving both ischemia and pressure.”

## New Codes for Deep Pressure-Induced Tissue Damage-Effective October 01, 2019 (FY 2020)-Pressure and Non Pressure Ulcer ICD-10 Coding Changes

---

### Cont'd

As a result of the AHRQ's request, **several new codes for deep pressure-induced tissue damage go into effect Oct. 1, 2019. Take note, as the new codes will change pressure ulcer and non-pressure ulcer ICD-10 coding.**

#### ICD-10-CM Codes for Fiscal Year 2020

L89.506	Pressure-induced deep tissue damage of unspecified ankle
L89.516	Pressure-induced deep tissue damage of right ankle
L89.526	Pressure-induced deep tissue damage of left ankle
L89.606	Pressure-induced deep tissue damage of unspecified heel
L89.616	Pressure-induced deep tissue damage of right heel
L89.626	Pressure-induced deep tissue damage of left heel
L89.816	Pressure-induced deep tissue damage of head
L89.896	Pressure-induced deep tissue damage of other site
L89.96	Pressure-induced deep tissue damage of unspecified site