

# Quality Measures Explained: High-Risk Pressure Ulcers

## **Calculating the High-Risk Pressure Ulcer Quality Measure (QM)<sup>1</sup>**

The high-risk pressure ulcer quality measure is considered a “long-stay” measure: the numerator and denominator include residents whose number of “cumulative days in facility” is over 100.

### **Which assessments are included in the high-risk pressure ulcer QM?**

Any annual, quarterly, significant change, significant correction, scheduled Prospective Payment System (PPS) assessment (except admission assessments, 5-day PPS or readmission/return assessments) or discharge MDS 3.0 assessment during the selected calendar quarter, is included in the high-risk pressure ulcer quality measure.

### **What is the definition of “high-risk”?**

Residents are defined as high-risk if they meet one or more of the following three criteria on the target assessment:

- Impaired bed mobility, self-performance (G0110A1) and/or impaired transfer, self-performance (G0110B1)
- Comatose (B0100)
- Malnutrition or at risk of malnutrition (I5600)

### **Which residents are counted in the numerator of the high-risk pressure ulcer QM?**

The numerator indicates the number of residents who triggered the quality measure, or the residents who “have” the measured condition. Residents are counted if they have a selected target assessment that meets both of the following conditions:

- There is a high risk for pressure ulcers, and
- Stage II, Stage III, or Stage IV pressure ulcer is present (M0300B1, M0300C1, M0300D1)

**Note:** Stage I pressure ulcers are not a component of this QM.

### **Which residents are counted in the denominator of the high-risk pressure ulcer QM?**

- Denominators of the quality measures indicate the number of residents in the facility that could potentially have the measured condition. The denominator of this quality measure includes all residents with a selected target assessment who meet the definition of high-risk, except those with exclusions.

**Note:** For some quality measures, the number of cases in the denominator is equal to the current number of residents in the facility. For other quality measures, the denominator is limited to a specific sub-group of residents who “could have triggered the quality measure.”

## **Minimum Data Set (MDS) 3.0 Definitions\***

### **Stage II Pressure Ulcer:**

Partial thickness loss of dermis presenting as a shallow open ulcer with a red pink wound bed, without slough. May also present as an intact or open/ruptured serum-filled blister.

### **Stage III Pressure Ulcer:**

Full thickness tissue loss. Subcutaneous fat may be visible but bone, tendon, or muscle is not exposed. Slough may be present but does not obscure the depth of tissue loss. May include undermining and tunneling.

### **Stage IV Pressure Ulcer:**

Full thickness tissue loss with exposed bone, tendon or muscle. Slough or eschar may be present on some parts of the wound bed. Often includes undermining and tunneling.

\* Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, *Long-Term Care Facility Resident Assessment Instrument User's Manual, MDS 3.0*, April 2012 Chapter 3, Pages M-8, M-10, M-13.

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services & RTI International. *MDS 3.0 Quality Measures User's Manual*, v5.0 03-01-2012, 2012.