





### Intent of Section M

- Observe and assess skin over 7-day observation period. Assessment includes cause of the wound and resident condition.
- Identify stage, type, and number of ulcers. Identify other skin conditions.
- Document preventive skin and foot care and skin treatments for active conditions.

### Note:

- interRAI coding requires staging of venous, arterial and diabetic ulcers, which is usually only completed for pressure injuries by wound care specialists.
- Arterial, venous and diabetic ulcers included in section **M1** are not included in **M2a** (pressure ulcers). Only venous ulcers are included in **M2b**.
- Include diabetic ulcers in **M1** and **M6c**.
- Differentiating between types of ulcers is critical to accurate coding.

**M1** - Record the number of ulcers at each stage on any part of the body. See stage description next page.

Ulcer	Cause and Description	Example
<b>Pressure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caused by prolonged pressure, usually over a bony prominence or under a medical device</li> <li>• Multiple contributing factors possible (e.g. incontinence), but primary cause is pressure</li> <li>• Oval or round wound</li> <li>• Varies from a red to bluish non-blanchable closed area to an open wound impacting multiple levels of tissue (see staging next page)</li> <li>• Pain varies from absent to severe</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Pressure Ulcer Stage 1</b></p>
<b>Venous Status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caused by venous insufficiency where peripheral venous blood return to the heart is poor</li> <li>• Located between the knee and ankle</li> <li>• Shallow red granular (e.g., bumpy) wound bed with irregular margins and moderate to large drainage</li> <li>• Legs often swollen and hyperpigmented (darkened)</li> <li>• Dull, achy pain in the entire leg</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Venous Stasis Stage 3</b> Slough present</p>
<b>Arterial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caused by arterial insufficiency where blood flow through arteries is reduced or blocked</li> <li>• Located on the feet, toes, heels and ankles</li> <li>• Skin is shiny, pale, hairless and cool to touch</li> <li>• Wound is round with even edges and minimal drainage</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Arterial Ulcer Stage 4</b> Covered with eschar (unstageable)</p>
<b>Diabetic</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caused by poor circulation and diabetic neuropathy</li> <li>• Located on the pressure points of the feet or ankle</li> <li>• May start as a small cut or wound and progress unnoticed to a round ulcer with even edges</li> <li>• Pain is described as pins and needles or none at all</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Diabetic Ulcer Stage 3</b> Undermining present</p>

Stage	Wound Description
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persistent redness with no break in the skin</li> <li>• Redness is non-blanchable and does not disappear when pressure is taken off</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A break in the top layer of skin (epidermis)</li> <li>• Skin abrasion, blister or very shallow ulcer with <u>no slough present</u></li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A break in the top two layers of skin (epidermis and dermis) exposing subcutaneous fat tissue</li> <li>• Deeper wound with or without undermining (erosion of tissue under wound edges)</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full thickness skin loss, including subcutaneous tissue, exposing muscle, tendons or bone</li> <li>• Includes wounds with non-visible wound bed (e.g. covered with eschar) and deep tissue wounds</li> </ul>

**M2** – Record the highest stage of pressure injury (**M2a**) and venous stasis ulcer (**M2b**) for each resident.

- Do not include a diabetic foot ulcer under **M2a**, even if pressure contributed to the wound. Assume the primary cause is diabetes and neuropathy, not pressure.

**M3** – Indicate if your resident had a healed pressure ulcer during the past 90 days. Residents with a recent healed ulcer are at increased risk for a new ulcer in the same area.

**M4** – Assess and record other skin conditions following the RAI MDS 2.0 User Manual.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>M4a</b> - closed skin wounds, including abrasions, bruises, scrapes, swelling, tenderness and skin discoloration. Do not include stage 1 ulcers included in <b>M1</b>.</li> <li>• <b>M4b</b> - only 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns, 1<sup>st</sup> degree burns can be included in <b>M4a</b>.</li> <li>• <b>M4c</b> - open lesions, including cancer lesions. Do not include stage 2-4 ulcers included in <b>M1</b> or <b>M2</b>. Do not include rashes, cuts or skin tears.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>M4d</b> - all rashes, such as intertrigo, eczema, drug/heat rash and herpes. Include any change in colour, blistering, itching, burning and pain due to a rash.</li> <li>• <b>M4e</b> - desensitised skin, unable to feel pain or pressure. Assess residents with diabetes, quadriplegia, paraplegia, hemiplegia, hemiparesis, and peripheral vascular disease.</li> <li>• <b>M4f</b> – skin tears, cuts through top layers of tissue.</li> <li>• <b>M4g</b> - surgical wounds, except healed wounds.</li> </ul>
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**M5** – Record skin treatments for healing or preventing a resident **specific** skin condition. Do not include a routine program, device or diet available to all residents.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>M5</b> - air or gel pressure relieving devices for bed (<b>M5a</b>) and chair (<b>M4b</b>). Do not include egg crates.</li> <li>• <b>M5c</b> – turning, repositioning program for healing or preventing a resident specific skin condition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>M5d</b> - nutrition and hydration, such as a high protein or high calorie diet, related to a skin condition.</li> <li>• <b>M5e</b> - treatment for pressure, venous stasis, arterial ulcers, such as dressings, medication, cleansing and debridement. <u>Include treatment for pressure ulcer on the foot <b>not</b> related to neuropathy.</u></li> </ul>
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Record dressings (**M5g**), ointments (**M5h**) and preventative skin care (**M5i**) for all other skin conditions, including dry skin. Do not include ulcer care, treatments for the feet or treatments for non-skin conditions.

**M6** – Record foot problems, including callouses, bunions, pain and structural problems (**M6a**), infection (**M6b**), and open lesions, such as diabetic ulcers (**M6c**). Record treatments, including nail and callous trimming (**M6d**), preventative foot care (**M63**) and other dressings for the feet.