# CMS HAC: Pressure Ulcer Stages III and IV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NQF#: Not NQF Endorsed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Developer: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Source: CMS Hospital Compare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: Stage III or IV pressure ulcers acquired after admission to a healthcare facility.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rationale:** Pressure ulcers have been associated with an extended length of hospitalization, sepsis and mortality. An estimated 60,000 U.S. hospital patients die each year from complications due to hospital-acquired pressure ulcers. The prevalence of pressure ulcers in health care facilities is increasing. Incidence rates vary considerably by clinical setting, with incidence rates ranging from 0.4% to 38% in acute care settings.

**Evidence for Rationale:**

**Numerator:** Number of occurrences of the following diagnosis codes as a secondary diagnosis (diagnoses 2-9 on a claim) with a POA code of ‘N’ or ‘U’:
- 707.23
- 707.24

**Denominator:** Number of acute inpatient FFS discharges during time period

**Impact:**
- Large number of patients affected
- The prevalence of pressure ulcers in health care facilities is increasing.
- An estimated 60,000 U.S. hospital patients died each year from complications due to hospital-acquired pressure ulcers.

**Evidence of High Impact:**

**Opportunity:**
- Opportunity for improvement exists, as demonstrated by the coefficient of variation for the measure

**Evidence:**
- A literature search of clinical trial, meta-analyses, systematic reviews, or regulatory statements and other professional order sets and protocols was performed and the quality and strength of evidence was weighted according to a given rating scheme.
- Evidence ratings vary from Class A to Class R, with the vast majority rated from class C to R.
  - Class A: Randomized, controlled trial
  - Class B: Cohort study
  - Class C: Non-randomized trial with concurrent or historical controls, case-control study, study of sensitivity and specificity of a diagnostic test, population-based descriptive study
  - Class D: Cross-sectional study, case series, case report
  - Class M: Meta-analysis, systematic review, decision analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis
  - Class R: Consensus statement, consensus report, narrative review

**Citations for Evidence:**

**Leapfrog Measure Scores**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence Score:</th>
<th>1, based on rating from expert panel on patient safety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity Score:</td>
<td>2.786, based on the coefficient of variation for the measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact Score:</td>
<td>3, based on number of patients affected and severity of harm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Weight:</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.icsi.org/pressure_ulcer_treatment_protocol__review_and_comment_/pressure_ulcer_treatment__protocol__.html
http://www.guideline.gov/content.aspx?id=16004