DOCUMENTATION REFERENCE CARD
PRESSURE ULCERS

Documentation Considerations

- **Review and document:**
  - **History**
  - **Comorbid conditions & risk factors**
  - **Nutritional intake/status: Dietary consult**
  - **Medication(s)**
- **Document the condition of the skin (i.e. Skin integrity and bony prominences) in the Physical Exam**
- **Review and incorporate pertinent findings:**
  - **Lab tests - PE outcome, Serum albumin & CBC**
  - **Functional Assessment: Braden Scale, Norton Scale**

Note: Documentation is acceptable from a non-physician practitioner (i.e. wound care nurse).
HIPAA appropriate photography encouraged.

Diagnosis Considerations

- **Documentation MUST specify "pressure" and include:**
  - **Site**
  - **Severity**
  - **Laterality**
  - **Stage**
    - ***Stage 1:*** **Skin changes, Non-blanchable erythema**
    - ***Stage 2:*** **An abrasion, blister & Partial thickness skin loss involving dermis and epidermis**
    - ***Stage 3:*** **Full thickness skin loss involving damage & necrosis to subcutaneous tissue**
    - ***Stage 4:*** **Full-thickness tissue loss, necrosis of soft tissues through underlying muscle, tendon, bone**
    - ***Deep Tissue Damage:*** **Etiology is pressure and/or ischemia and may resolve without tissue loss**
    - ***Unstageable:*** **Based on clinical documentation stage undetermined**

Additional Considerations

- **Document the type & efficacy of treatment:**
  - **Management of underlying medical conditions**
  - **Appropriate pressure -relieving support surfaces**
  - **Dressings**
  - **Wound debridement:**
    - **Autolytic debridement**
    - **Surgical debridement**
    - **Mechanical debridement**
    - **Wet to dry dressings**
    - **Wound irrigation**
  - **Electric Stimulation**
  - **Education of Family/Care takers**
  - **Promotion of a healing environment**
  - **Review identification of early signs of pressure ulcer formation**

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NOTE: This tool is intended to assist with documentation only and is not intended to take the place of clinical analysis. Information regarding any law or regulation does not constitute legal or tax advice and is subject to change based upon the issuance of new guidance and/or change in laws or regulations. Reference Official ICD-10-CM coding guidelines and manuals or electronic medical coding software for accurate ICD-10-CM codes and specificity.

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