

# LHCR is helping make health care *healthier.*

## Join the Hospital/Nursing Home Pressure Ulcer Community of Practice & **SAVE OUR SKIN**



**Now is the time for pressure ulcer prevention strategies and interventions to be implemented for every patient. Your participation in this effort will facilitate significant progress toward this goal.**

- ▶ The **Institute for Healthcare Improvement** (IHI) reports, "Each year, nearly one million people develop pressure ulcers resulting in costs exceeding \$1.3 billion, and the human suffering is inestimable."
- ▶ Seventy percent (70%) of pressure ulcers occur in patients over the age of 70.
- ▶ Pressure ulcers occur most often in sicker patients. Mortality risk is two to six times higher for a patient with a pressure ulcer than for a patient with intact skin.
- ▶ The pressure ulcer rate in acute care facilities ranges from 0.4 percent to 38 percent.
  - In FY 2007, CMS reported the incidence of new pressure ulcers in hospitals to be around 7 percent.
  - According to the MDS data reported to CMS for Quarter 2 2007, the pressure ulcer rate in nursing homes is around 12 percent.
- ▶ For FY 2006, there were 322,946 reported cases of Medicare patients who had a pressure ulcer as a secondary diagnosis. Average charges for the hospital stay were \$40,381 per case.
- ▶ Because existing medical conditions may contribute to and complicate the development/treatment of pressure ulcers, practitioners should view ulcers as best addressed by a comprehensive, inter-disciplinary approach to the patient.
  - The Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, required CMS to implement an initiative known as Hospital-Acquired Conditions. Beginning October 1, 2008, CMS will discontinue higher payments to hospitals to cover the cost of a Stage III or IV pressure ulcer that develops during hospitalization.
  - More information on Hospital-Acquired Conditions is found in CMS-1390-F; Changes to the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems and Fiscal Year 2009 Rates:  
<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/center/hospital.asp>



## Louisiana Health Care Review

The Medicare Quality Improvement Organization  
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