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Circular Letter: DHCQ-13-7-593

TO: Hospital Chief Executive Officers
 Ambulatory Surgery Center Administrators
 Risk Managers

FROM: Madeleine Biondolillo, MD *MB*
 Bureau Director

DATE: July 23, 2013

RE: Serious Reportable Event (SRE) Reporting Guidelines Update for Pressure Ulcers

This letter serves to inform hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers that the Department of Public Health (DPH or the Department) has revised its reporting guidelines for Serious Reportable Event 4F: *Any Stage 3, Stage 4 or unstageable pressure ulcers acquired after admission/presentation to a healthcare setting.* In guidelines issued in September 2012, which took effect on October 1, 2012, the Department provided the following chart, detailing which pressure ulcers had to be reported as SREs.

Old Guidelines: No Longer Effective

Patient is admitted to hospital with:	During the hospital stay Pressure Ulcer becomes:	SRE or Not?
No Pressure Ulcer	Stage 3, 4 or unstageable	SRE
Stage 1	Stage 3, 4 or unstageable	SRE
Stage 2	Stage 4 or unstageable	SRE
Stage 2	Stage 3	Not SRE
Stage 3	Stage 4 or unstageable	Reportable*
Stage 4	---	Not SRE
Unstageable	Stage 3 or 4	Reportable*
Deep Tissue Injury	Pressure Ulcer (any stage)	Not SRE

*In these cases, the pressure ulcer should be reported to DPH, which will decide on a case-by-case basis whether or not the pressure ulcer should be considered a Serious Reportable Event. A determination will be made within 7 days of reporting.

The Department has reviewed these reporting requirements with several stakeholders and clinical experts and believes that a revision to the requirements is appropriate. At this time, the Department is amending three of the requirements for reporting pressure ulcers:

1. Pressure ulcers that are staged at Stage 3 upon admission that are later unstageable do not have to be reported to the Department.
2. Pressure ulcers that are staged at Stage 3 upon admission and that progress to Stage 4 must be reported as incidents, but will not be considered SREs.
3. Pressure ulcers that are unstageable upon admission that are later staged as a Stage 3 or a Stage 4 do not have to be reported to the Department.

The Department will not change the classification (e.g., as an SRE or incident) for any pressure ulcer that was reported between October 1, 2012 and the August 1, 2013. The revised pressure ulcer reporting chart is included below.

Revised Guidelines: Effective August 1, 2013

Patient is admitted to hospital with:	During the hospital stay Pressure Ulcer becomes:	SRE or Not?
No Pressure Ulcer	Stage 3, 4 or unstageable	SRE
Stage 1	Stage 3, 4 or unstageable	SRE
Stage 2	Stage 4 or unstageable	SRE
Stage 2	Stage 3	Not SRE
Stage 3	Stage 4	Not SRE, Report as an Incident
Stage 3	Unstageable	Not SRE
Stage 4	Stage 3 or Unstageable	Not SRE
Unstageable	Stage 3 or 4	Not SRE
Deep Tissue Injury	Pressure Ulcer (any stage)	Not SRE

If you have any questions about these updated guidelines, please contact Deb Ulin at Debbie.Ulin@state.ma.us or 617-753-8204.