



**Wound Care Strategies, Inc.**  
**MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** PRESIDENT / CEO  
**FROM:** LUCINDA J. ROOK, RN, CPC – DIRECTOR, CODING & COMPLIANCE  
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**SUBJECT:** CMS FINAL RULE IPPS FY 2008  
**DATE:** OCTOBER 12, 2007

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The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)** issued a final rule to update the hospital inpatient prospective payment system (IPPS) for fiscal year (FY) 2008. Included in the new ruling is the need for identifying secondary diagnoses that are **present on admission (POA)** and conditions whereby additional **payment will not be received** by hospitals when such diagnoses are determined to be **hospital acquired**.

**Pressure ulcers** have been named to the list of identified conditions for which additional **payments to hospital will not occur** if determined to be hospital acquired.

When selecting codes for inclusion in the ruling, consideration was given to identify codes to describe conditions that could reasonably have been prevented through application of evidence-based guidelines. Pressure ulcer prevention guidelines do exist and can be implemented by hospitals.

**Wound Care Strategies' proprietary TriAssess® Premier Software for the outpatient wound care department integrates the necessary documentation to support the inpatient identification of pressure ulcers present on admission.**

**TriAssess® Premier Software** provides the vessel for documentation of the admission assessment and subsequent follow up care. This valuable resource will provide the advanced practice wound care team member the structure for **identifying and documenting pressure ulcers upon admission** and throughout the hospital stay for high risk patients.