NPUAP Staging System Updates

Q: I am a LTC Regional Nurse in Richmond, VA and want to be certain I understand the changes to the NPUAP Staging System announced in April 2016. Would you summarize the updated terminology and definitions, and most importantly, describe if these changes will affect my work in LTC.

A: It is a NEW world! For those of you who have been involved in wound care over these past decades, you will recall terms such as bed sore, pressure sore, decubitus ulcer and eventually the term pressure ulcer to describe wounds caused by pressure. In an April 2016 meeting of the NPUAP, significant changes in terminology were adopted. Changes include:

1. The term “pressure injury” replaces “pressure ulcer.”
2. Arabic numbers replace Roman numerals in staging.
3. Term “suspected” has been removed from Deep Tissue Injury label.
4. Additional pressure injury definitions include:
   - Medical-Device Related Pressure Injury
   - Mucosal Membrane Pressure Injury

NPUAP EXPANDS DEFINITION OF PRESSURE INJURY : April 2016
A pressure injury is localized damage to the skin and/or underlying soft tissue usually over a bony prominence or related to a medical or other device. The injury can present as intact skin or an open ulcer and may be painful. The injury occurs as a result of intense and/or prolonged pressure or pressure in combination with shear. The tolerance of soft tissue for pressure and shear may also be affected by microclimate, nutrition, perfusion, co-morbidities and condition of the soft tissue.

DO NPUAP CHANGES EFFECT MDS 3.0, SECTION M?
The RAI Manual continues to be the guideline for completing the MDS 3.0. Until revisions are made to the RAI manual, LTC will continue to use the RAI definitions of staging. The current RAI Manual definitions of staging pressure injuries is adapted but not adopted from NPUAP.

For Free NPUAP Resource Staging Illustrations including:
- Healthy Skin Causation/Non-Causation
- Stages 1-4 Causation/Non-Causation
- Blanchable vs. Non-Blanchable
- Deep Tissue Pressure Injury
- Unstageable Pressure Injury

Visit [http://www.npuap.org/resources/educational-and-clinical-resources/pressure-injury-staging-illustrations/].