

Hello SCR!

October seems to be just around the corner. Make sure you go to our web site for the latest on the fall conference October 11th to 13th.

<http://www.scrwocn.org/Events/NursingConference2007/NursingConference.htm>

There is a pre-conference option so you may want to come in early so you can attend the *Tour of the historic, original home of the internationally recognized Hanson's Disease Center and see where some of our current science in neuropathic ulcer treatment was developed.*

If you aren't on the WOCN Forum the following was posted regarding the CMS and future pressure ulcer payments: *Here is a synopsis of the Medicare document CMS-1533-FC says. It was released this week. The WOCN made many thoughtful comments.*

Pressure Ulcers are high cost/high volume conditions that cost Medicare substantial amounts of money. Medicare has selected the condition of pressure ulcers to be subject to the payment adjustment for hospital-acquired conditions beginning October 1, 2008. In other words, hospitals will not be able to collect payment for treating hospital acquired pressure ulcers.

Thus, it becomes imperative that all pressure ulcers present on admission are well documented. Special care must be taken to assure that Stage One and Deep Tissue Injury wounds are accurately noted, since these wound often deteriorate into large wounds as they evolve. The larger wound will count against the hospital if there is no documentation that these precursor wounds were present on admission.

Herein lies the rub. This documentation must be done by the admitting physician. The coding for reimbursement is done from his notes.*

Medicare has referred the matter concerning the need for additional, more detailed ICD-9 codes to the CDC. The plan is that they will have created codes to aid in distinguishing early from late stage pressure ulcers prior to the October 1st launch.

We would like to hear the latest from our members. What is going on in your area? Are there any new clinics, awards or recognitions, changed jobs...? Email information to bkusmann@ochsner.org Remember to let us know if your address (especially email) has changed jmdavis@pdq.net . The ballots will be coming out soon and we need your current mailing address. There will be a change in our bylaws that will need your vote: regarding changing to an email ballot for electing new officers.

Keep in touch,

Jill Conwill –President SCR