

Non-Pressure Ulcer

At Healthfirst, we are committed to helping providers accurately document and code their patients' health records. This tip sheet is intended to assist providers and coding staff with the documentation and ICD-10-CM selection on services submitted to Healthfirst specifically for common types of **Non-Pressure Ulcer**. It provides information from industry sources about proper coding practice. However, this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for services outlined. Coverage decisions are based on the terms of the applicable subscriber contract/ evidence of coverage and the provider's participation agreement. This includes the determination of any amounts that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

Non-Pressure Ulcers, unlike pressure ulcers, are not represented by specific stage numbers. However, they are still described based on site (character 5) and the description of the depth of the ulcer. Non-pressure ulcers may only involve skin breakdown, or the fat layer may be exposed. Deeper ulcers can involve muscle or even bone with or without necrosis of the muscle or bone. Code descriptions in this category specifically define these phases.

ICD-10 Codes & Descriptions

Codes	Descriptions
The below following codes require to identify severity by adding a sixth digit where “*” is located.	
1 - limited to breakdown of skin	
2 - with fat layer exposed	
3 - with necrosis of muscle	
4 - with necrosis of bone	
5 - with muscle involvement without evidence of necrosis	
6 - with bone involvement without evidence of necrosis	
8 - with other specified severity	
9 - with unspecified severity	
L97.10*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified thigh
L97.11*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right thigh
L97.12*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left thigh
L97.20*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified calf
L97.21*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right calf

<Non-Pressure Ulcer >

Documentation and Coding

Codes	Descriptions
L97.22*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left calf
L97.30*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified ankle
L97.31*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right ankle
L97.32*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left ankle
L97.40*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified heel and midfoot
L97.41*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right heel and midfoot
L97.42*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left heel and midfoot
L97.50*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified foot
L97.51*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of right foot
L97.52*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of left foot
L97.80*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified lower leg
L97.81*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of right lower leg
L97.82*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of left lower leg
L97.90*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of unspecified lower leg
L97.91*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of right lower leg
L97.92*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of left lower leg
L98.41*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of buttock
L98.42*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of back
L98.43*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of abdomen
L98.44*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of chest
L98.45*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of neck
L98.46*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of face
L98.47*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of groin
L98.49*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of skin of other sites
The below following codes require to identify severity by adding a seventh digit where “*” is located. 1 - limited to breakdown of skin 2 - with fat layer exposed 3 - with necrosis of muscle 4 - with necrosis of bone	

Documentation and Coding

5 - with muscle involvement without evidence of necrosis	
6 - with bone involvement without evidence of necrosis	
8 - with other specified severity	
9 - with unspecified severity	
L98.A11*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right upper arm
L98.A12*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left upper arm
L98.A19*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified upper arm
L98.A21*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right forearm
L98.A22*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left forearm
L98.A29*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified forearm
L98.A31*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right hand
L98.A32*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left hand
L98.A39*	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified hand

Documentation Recommendation

- Non-pressure skin ulcer by **anatomic site**, **laterality**, and **severity**. Paired **sites** are classified as **right, left, or of unspecified laterality**.
- For **L97*** - Non-pressure chronic ulcer of lower limb, not elsewhere classified **Includes:**
 - Chronic ulcer of skin of lower limb NOS
 - Non-healing ulcer of skin
 - Non-infected sinus of skin
 - Trophic ulcer NOS or Tropical ulcer NOS
 - Ulcer of skin of lower limb NOS
- Physicians should document the severity and extent of ulcer as clearly and thoroughly as possible in the record, including any changes in ulcer status or complications associated with the healing process.
- Document whether the ulcer is neuropathic, post-surgical, or caused by trauma
- **Associated Complications:** Any complications, infections, or severe tissue conditions must be explicitly documented
 - **Gangrene:** If gangrene is present, it must be documented and coded.
 - **Infection:** Note any signs of clinical infection, cellulitis, or osteomyelitis.
- **L98.A*** - Non-pressure chronic ulcer of upper limb, not elsewhere classified **Includes:**
 - Chronic ulcer of upper limb NOS
 - Non-healing ulcer of upper limb
 - Ulcer of upper limb NEC

< Non-Pressure Ulcer >

Documentation and Coding

Clinician Documentation Should Indicate the Following:

Identification of Any Associated Underlying Condition	Extent of Non-Pressure Ulcer	Anatomical Site	
• Atherosclerosis of Lower Extremities • Chronic Venous Hypertension • Diabetic Ulcers • Postphlebitic Syndrome • Post-thrombotic Syndrome • Varicose Ulcer	• Limited to Breakdown of Skin • With Bone Involvement (Without Necrosis) • With Fat Layer Exposed • With Muscle Involvement (Without Necrosis) • With Necrosis of Muscle • With Necrosis of Bone • Unspecified Severity	• Thigh • Calf • Ankle • Heel & Midfoot • Foot • Lower Leg • Buttock • Back	• Abdomen • Chest • Neck • Face • Groin • Forearm • Upper Arm • Hand

Coding Tips

- For **L97*** - Code first any associated underlying condition, such as:
 - Any Associated Gangrene (**I96**)
 - Atherosclerosis of the Lower Extremities (**I70.23-**, **I70.24-**, **I70.33-**, **I70.34-**, **I70.43-**, **I70.44-**, **I70.53-**, **I70.54-**, **I70.63-**, **I70.64-**, **I70.73-**, **I70.74-**)
 - Chronic Venous Hypertension (**I87.31-**, **I87.33-**)
 - Diabetic Ulcers (**E08.621**, **E08.622**, **E09.621**, **E09.622**, **E10.621**, **E10.622**, **E11.621**, **E11.622**, **E13.621**, **E13.622**)
 - Postphlebitic Syndrome (**I87.01-**, **I87.03-**)
 - Postthrombotic Syndrome (**I87.01-**, **I87.03-**)
 - Varicose Ulcer (**I83.0-**, **I83.2-**)
- **L97*** can be coded with below codes (**Excludes2**) if clinical documents support these diagnoses:
 - Gangrene (**I96**)
 - Pressure Ulcer (Pressure Area) (**L89.-**)
 - Skin Infections (**L00-L08**)
 - Specific Infections Classified to (**A00-B99**)
 - Varicose Ulcer (**I83.0-I83.93**)
- Non-pressure ulcers that are completely healed are not coded or reported.
- Non-pressure ulcers that are healing are coded based on medical record documentation. If no severity is specified, the appropriate code for unspecified severity is assigned.

*Requires additional digits to complete the code.

< Non-Pressure Ulcer >

Documentation and Coding

Coding Example

Case 1	A 55-year-old obese patient presented due to bilateral venous stasis disease, lymphedema and lipodermatosclerosis associated with venous stasis ulcer of the right lateral calf. When referencing lipodermatosclerosis in the Alphabetic Index, an instructional note to see “Varix, leg, with, inflammation” leads to a code that describes varicose veins. However, the patient does not have varicose veins. What is the appropriate code assignment for lipodermatosclerosis without documented varicose veins?
AHA Coding Clinic <i>First Quarter, Volume 11, Number 1, Page 16, 2024</i>	Assign code M79.3, Panniculitis, unspecified , for lipodermatosclerosis. In addition, assign codes L97.219, Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right calf with unspecified severity , I87.2, Venous insufficiency (chronic) (peripheral) , and I89.0, Lymphedema, not elsewhere classified , to capture venous stasis disease with right venous stasis calf ulcer and lymphedema. – Lipodermatosclerosis, also referred to as sclerosing panniculitis or hypodermatitis, sclerodermaformis, is a form of panniculitis, in which the skin of the lower legs becomes discolored, tight, and painful. It would not be appropriate to report codes for varicose veins when there is no provider documentation supporting the condition.

References

- [ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines FY2026](#)
- [codingclinicadviser.com](https://www.codingclinicadviser.com)

Questions?

Contact us at [#Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org](mailto:Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org).

For additional documentation and coding guidance, please visit the coding section on [HFproviders.org](https://www.healthfirst.org/providers)

Coverage is provided by Healthfirst Health Plan, Inc., Healthfirst PHSP, Inc., and/or Healthfirst Insurance Company, Inc. (together, “Healthfirst”).

<26-5342> <PRX26_36>

< Non-Pressure Ulcer >

[HFproviders.org](https://www.healthfirst.org/providers)