

OASIS ITEM	
(M1324) Stage of Most Problematic Unhealed (Observable) Pressure Ulcer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1 - Stage I <input type="checkbox"/> 2 - Stage II <input type="checkbox"/> 3 - Stage III <input type="checkbox"/> 4 - Stage IV <input type="checkbox"/> NA - No observable pressure ulcer or unhealed pressure ulcer 	
ITEM INTENT	
Identifies the stage of the most problematic observable Stage 1 or higher pressure ulcer. Definitions of pressure ulcer stages derived from the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel.	
TIME POINTS ITEM(S) COMPLETED	
Start of Care Resumption of Care Follow-up Discharge from agency - not to an inpatient facility	
RESPONSE—SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine the most problematic pressure ulcer. Visualization of the wound base is necessary to identify the degree of healing evident in the ulcer. “Most problematic” may be the largest, the most advanced stage, the most difficult to access for treatment, the most difficult to relieve pressure, etc., depending on the specific situation. Mark the response that most accurately describes the stage of the most problematic pressure ulcer. If the patient has only one observable pressure ulcer, then that ulcer is the most problematic. Use the NPUAP definitions to determine the stage of the most problematic pressure ulcer. Until suspected deep tissue injury (DTI) evolves and opens, the stage will be considered “NA,” as the wound bed cannot be visualized. Select “NA” if the patient has NO pressure ulcers or has pressure ulcers that cannot be observed due to the presence of necrotic tissue (including eschar or slough) that obscures visualization of the wound base, or a dressing or device that cannot be removed (e.g., a cast). Reverse staging of pressure ulcers is NOT an appropriate clinical practice according to the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP). If a pressure ulcer is Stage III at SOC and is granulating at the follow-up visit, the ulcer remains a Stage III ulcer. A healed Stage III or Stage IV pressure ulcer continues to be regarded as a pressure ulcer at its worst stage. However, an unhealed active ulcer at a lower stage may be the most problematic ulcer. A previously healed Stage III or Stage IV pressure ulcer that breaks down again should be staged at its worst stage. 	
DATA SOURCES / RESOURCES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient/caregiver interview Observation Physical assessment Referral documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of health history Physician See Chapter 5 of this manual for links to published guidelines of NPUAP, NPUAP staging illustrations, and WOCN guidelines.

Guidance for this item updated 12/2012