



## Insights on F314 Prevention & Reclassification

*Submitted by WoundRounds*

An informal survey of membership in Care Providers of Minnesota shows a rise in the number of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guideline Tag F314 with approximately 39% of facilities reporting a F314. Members such as Amanda Johnson, Vice President of Clinical Services for Tealwood Enterprises, points out that "pressure ulcer prevention and treatment are important components of nursing home quality, and with the new 5 star measures on pressure ulcers, it makes sense for the local SNF profession to focus in this area."

### **Preventing F314s with WoundRounds®**

Tealwood Enterprises has invested in WoundRounds, a wound management and prevention solution, in 11 facilities in Minnesota and South Dakota. (WoundRounds is also a valued Business Partner of Care Providers of Minnesota.) WoundRounds is used by nurses to assess and document wounds and wound risk at the patient bedside. The system also prompts for interventions, generates reports and dashboards, and shares information to keep physicians, management and the entire care team connected and focused on the patient's progress.

Johnson attributes the strength of Tealwood's wound care program to her dedicated staff and their utilization of WoundRounds. When Tealwood recently experienced two F314 tags, they leveraged the informal dispute process to show the strength of Tealwood's wound documentation and were able to overturn the original tags. (See additional tips to reduce pressure sores and avoid F314 tags below.)

### **F314 Strategy**

For any long term care facility, Johnson recommends a proactive focus on wound documentation, ensuring the facility has completeness and consistency. She advises that facilities perform Braden assessments to determine Braden scores and follow through on recommended wound interventions and preventive measures, documenting fully in patient care plans.

"Automating wound management through WoundRounds has driven consistency and completeness in our assessment and documentation process," notes Johnson. "We used to average 222 Braden assessments per month, whereas now with WoundRounds we're averaging 667 per month, more than triple the assessments with roughly the same patient census and number of nurses."

Furthermore, Johnson recommends that SNFs practice wound inspection readiness with staff which may include practice interviews with mock auditors, helping staff to feel comfortable and prepared to answer questions, pull wound reports, and demonstrate their competency around pressure ulcers.

Johnson says, "The requirements of F314 are increasingly complex, and we're fortunate to have WoundRounds. We have prevented F314s by utilizing our WoundRounds documentation with state surveyors to affirm our practices are in compliance."

## **Tips for F314**

Amanda Johnson, the VP of Clinical Services at Tealwood, recommends:

- Train your staff on pressure ulcer prevention, treatment, and documentation
- Implement use of the Braden Assessment score and judiciously incorporate recommended interventions in patient care plans.
- Document completely and consistently. Make sure the MDS coding on the skin area matches the nursing assessment--whether the wound is pressure-related or not.
- Use wound photographs which provide a visual record of wound healing.
- For wounds which are questioned by surveyors as being avoidable pressure ulcers, solid documentation is the best defense.

Johnson points out that their WoundRounds solution automates all of the above, including the MDS documentation, quality reporting, and wound photography. She recommends wound photographs with each assessment because "pictures speak for themselves in proving wound healing as a visual support to the written records." Additionally, she adds that following the above helps SNFs to build a comprehensive culture around pressure ulcer avoidance.

WoundRounds, a service of Telemedicine Solutions LLC, is the point-of-care wound management and prevention solution that empowers clinicians to deliver better wound care in less time. WoundRounds drives consistency in nursing practice, completeness in wound documentation, and compliance with clinical standards.

For more information, please visit [www.woundrounds.com](http://www.woundrounds.com) or follow on Twitter [@woundrounds](https://twitter.com/woundrounds).

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