

Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcers in ICD-10-CM

The coding and documentation of non-pressure chronic ulcers has greatly expanded in ICD-10-CM. The codes are located in categories L97 and L98. In order for the most appropriate code to be assigned at the highest level of specificity, documentation must include site, laterality, and severity. There are instructional notes for the codes that state to code first and associated underlying conditions, 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)
- postphlebotic syndrome (I87.01-, I87.03-)
- postthrombotic syndrome (I87.01-, I87.03-)
- varicose ulcer (I83.0-, I83.2-)

The “code first” list is used to indicate order for code assignment. The causation for the ulcer should be documented in the medical record. According to the instructional notes, that causation would be listed first, followed by the ulcer code(s).

Physicians and other providers will need to document more specific information in order to assign an appropriate code. Otherwise, unspecified codes will be assigned. These codes have the potential to cause adjudication problems, including denials and pended claims. The information that needs to be documented for non-pressure ulcers is anatomic location, laterality (when applicable), severity, and causation (as demonstrated above).

Below is a listing of the codes for non-pressure chronic ulcer broken down by severity, then site. This can be used as a quick reference, or as a tool to share with providers.

Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcers Limited to Breakdown of Skin

- L97.111 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right thigh** limited to breakdown of skin
- L97.121 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left thigh** limited to breakdown of skin
- L97.211 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right calf** limited to breakdown of skin
- L97.221 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left calf** limited to breakdown of skin
- L97.311 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right ankle** limited to breakdown of skin
- L97.321 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left ankle** limited to breakdown of skin
- L97.411 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right heel** and midfoot limited to breakdown of skin
- L97.421 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left heel** and midfoot limited to breakdown of skin
- L97.511 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of right foot** limited to breakdown of skin
- L97.521 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of left foot** limited to breakdown of skin
- L97.811 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of right lower leg** limited to breakdown of skin

L97.821 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of left lower leg** limited to breakdown of skin
L98.411 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **buttock** limited to breakdown of skin
L98.421 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **back** limited to breakdown of skin
L98.491 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **skin of other sites** limited to breakdown of skin

Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcers with Fat Layer Exposed

L97.112 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right thigh** with fat layer exposed
L97.122 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left thigh** with fat layer exposed
L97.212 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right calf** with fat layer exposed
L97.222 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left calf** with fat layer exposed
L97.312 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right ankle** with fat layer exposed
L97.322 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left ankle** with fat layer exposed
L97.412 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right heel and midfoot** with fat layer exposed
L97.422 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left heel and midfoot** with fat layer exposed
L97.512 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of right foot** with fat layer exposed
L97.522 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of left foot** with fat layer exposed
L97.812 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of right lower leg** with fat layer exposed
L97.822 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of left lower leg** with fat layer exposed
L98.412 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **buttock** with fat layer exposed
L98.422 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **back** with fat layer exposed
L98.492 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **skin of other sites** with fat layer exposed

Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcers with Necrosis of Muscle

L97.113 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right thigh** with necrosis of muscle
L97.123 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left thigh** with necrosis of muscle
L97.213 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right calf** with necrosis of muscle
L97.223 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left calf** with necrosis of muscle
L97.313 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right ankle** with necrosis of muscle
L97.323 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left ankle** with necrosis of muscle
L97.413 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right heel and midfoot** with necrosis of muscle
L97.423 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left heel and midfoot** with necrosis of muscle
L97.513 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of right foot** with necrosis of muscle
L97.523 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of left foot** with necrosis of muscle
L97.813 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of right lower leg** with necrosis of muscle
L97.823 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of left lower leg** with necrosis of muscle

- L98.413 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **buttock** with necrosis of muscle
- L98.423 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **back** with necrosis of muscle
- L98.493 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **skin of other sites** with necrosis of muscle

Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcers with Necrosis of Bone

- L97.114 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right thigh** with necrosis of bone
- L97.124 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left thigh** with necrosis of bone
- L97.214 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right calf** with necrosis of bone
- L97.224 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left calf** with necrosis of bone
- L97.314 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right ankle** with necrosis of bone
- L97.324 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left ankle** with necrosis of bone
- L97.414 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **right heel and midfoot** with necrosis of bone
- L97.424 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **left heel and midfoot** with necrosis of bone
- L97.514 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of right foot** with necrosis of bone
- L97.524 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of left foot** with necrosis of bone
- L97.814 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of right lower leg** with necrosis of bone
- L97.824 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **other part of left lower leg** with necrosis of bone
- L98.414 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **buttock** with necrosis of bone
- L98.424 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **back** with necrosis of bone
- L98.494 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of **skin of other sites** with necrosis of bone

Following is the listing of the unspecified codes for non-pressure chronic ulcers. These should rarely be used as they may cause delay or denial of claims.

Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcers with Unspecified Severity

- L97.119 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right thigh with unspecified severity
- L97.129 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left thigh with unspecified severity
- L97.219 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right calf with unspecified severity
- L97.229 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left calf with unspecified severity
- L97.319 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right ankle with unspecified severity
- L97.329 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left ankle with unspecified severity
- L97.419 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of right heel and midfoot with unspecified severity
- L97.429 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left heel and midfoot with unspecified severity
- L97.519 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of right foot with unspecified severity
- L97.529 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of left foot with unspecified severity
- L97.819 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of right lower leg with unspecified severity

- L97.829 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of left lower leg with unspecified severity
- L98.419 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of buttock with unspecified severity
- L98.429 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of back with unspecified severity
- L98.499 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of skin of other sites with unspecified severity

Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcers with Unspecified Sites

- L97.10 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified thigh
 - L97.101 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified thigh limited to breakdown of skin
 - L97.102 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified thigh with fat layer exposed
 - L97.103 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified thigh with necrosis of muscle
 - L97.104 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified thigh with necrosis of bone
 - L97.109 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified thigh with unspecified severity
- L97.20 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified calf
 - L97.201 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified calf limited to breakdown of skin
 - L97.202 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified calf with fat layer exposed
 - L97.203 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified calf with necrosis of muscle
 - L97.204 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified calf with necrosis of bone
 - L97.209 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified calf with unspecified severity
- L97.30 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified ankle
 - L97.301 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified ankle limited to breakdown of skin
 - L97.302 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified ankle with fat layer exposed
 - L97.303 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified ankle with necrosis of muscle
 - L97.304 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified ankle with necrosis of bone
 - L97.309 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified ankle with unspecified severity
- L97.40 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified heel and midfoot
 - L97.401 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified heel and midfoot limited to breakdown of skin
 - L97.402 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified heel and midfoot with fat layer exposed
 - L97.403 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified heel and midfoot with necrosis of muscle
 - L97.404 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified heel and midfoot with necrosis of bone
 - L97.409 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified heel and midfoot with unspecified severity

L97.50 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified foot

L97.501 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified foot limited to breakdown of skin

L97.502 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified foot with fat layer exposed

L97.503 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified foot with necrosis of muscle

L97.504 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified foot with necrosis of bone

L97.509 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified foot with unspecified severity

L97.80 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified lower leg

L97.801 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified lower leg limited to breakdown of skin

L97.802 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified lower leg with fat layer exposed

L97.803 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified lower leg with necrosis of muscle

L97.804 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified lower leg with necrosis of bone

L97.809 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified lower leg with unspecified severity

L97.90 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of unspecified lower leg

L97.901 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of unspecified lower leg limited to breakdown of skin

L97.902 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of unspecified lower leg with fat layer exposed

L97.903 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of unspecified lower leg with necrosis of muscle

L97.904 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of unspecified lower leg with necrosis of bone

L97.909 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of unspecified lower leg with unspecified severity

L97.91 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of right lower leg

L97.911 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of right lower leg limited to breakdown of skin

L97.912 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of right lower leg with fat layer exposed

L97.913 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of right lower leg with necrosis of muscle

L97.914 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of right lower leg with necrosis of bone

L97.919 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of right lower leg with unspecified severity

L97.92 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of left lower leg

L97.921 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of left lower leg limited to breakdown of skin

L97.922 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of left lower leg with fat layer exposed

L97.923 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of left lower leg with necrosis of muscle

L97.924 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of left lower leg with necrosis of bone

L97.929 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of unspecified part of left lower leg with unspecified severity