(Note: Care must be provided by a registered nurse with special psychiatric training and/or experience. Some intermediaries require that the nurses providing this care submit their credentials for review.)

The reason a psychiatric patient is homebound will often be related to the psychiatric disorder. Objective documentation of these criteria is important.

Be sure to document your observation and assessment of the psychiatric disorder:

- Changes in condition
- The high risk of complications
- The changes in the patient’s treatment or medication
- Increased need for care management
- Effectiveness of medications
- Administration of medication by injection

The RN may also give medications to treat psychiatric disorders by injection IF it is documented that oral treatment has not been effective.

Do not forget to assess the need for an occupational therapist, home health aide and social worker for psychiatric patients.

See your MAC’s Local Coverage Determinations for more information:

- CGS: None
- Palmetto GBA: www.palmettogba.com LCD ID Number L31531, “Home Health—Psychiatric Care”
- NGS: None

For further information, see the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, CMS Publication 100-2, Chapter 7, Section 40.1.2.15

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These M items are all related to the assessment of the patient for stasis ulcers. Stasis ulcers are:

- Often associated with stasis dermatitis
- Caused by alteration in venous circulation (not arterial)
- Usually superficial

Remember in your assessment and note in your documentation:

- The patient’s diagnoses and clinical conditions, such as peripheral vascular disease or edema to assist in the assessment.
- Ask the physician for assistance in determining what type of ulcer it is.
- Note the presence of both observable and unobservable stasis ulcers in M1330
- Report only unhealed stasis ulcers (those that are not completely epithelialized)
- M1332 counts only the observable stasis ulcers. Do not consider those that are covered with a non-removable dressing or device.

Note: These M items affect both the clinical domain reimbursement and the non-routine supplies reimbursement.

*The Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurse’s (WOCN) have published OASIS guidelines on assessing stasis ulcers. For more information, go to www.wocn.org.

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