SKIN – Skin

DEFINITION: Skin infections must meet at least **ONE** ☐ of the following criteria:

☐ **Criterion 1**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient has at least **ONE** Δ of the following:
  - Δ purulent drainage
  - Δ pustules
  - Δ vesicles
  - Δ boils

☐ **Criterion 2**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient has at least **TWO** Δ of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause:
  - Δ pain or tenderness
  - Δ localized swelling
  - Δ redness
  - Δ heat

AND

- Patient has at least **ONE** Δ of the following:
  - Δ organisms cultured from **ONE** ☐ of the following:
    - ☐ aspirate from affected site
    - ☐ drainage from affected site

NOTE: if organisms are normal skin flora, they must be a pure culture.
Examples of normal skin flora include diphtheroids [*Corynebacterium* spp.], *Bacillus* [not *B. anthracis*] spp., *Propionibacterium* spp., coagulase-negative staphylococci [including *S. epidermidis*], viridans group streptococci, *Aerococcus* spp., *Micrococcus* spp.

  - Δ organisms cultured from blood
  - Δ positive antigen test performed on **ONE** ☐ of the following:
    - ☐ infected tissue
    - ☐ blood (e.g. herpes simplex, varicella zoster, *H. influenzae*, *N. meningitidis*)

Δ multinucleated giant cells seen on microscopic examination of affected tissue

Δ choose **ONE** ☐ of the following:

☐ diagnostic single antibody titer (IgM)

☐ 4-fold increase in paired sera (IgG) for pathogen

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Report omphalitis in infants as UMB.
- Report infections of the circumcision site in newborns as CIRC.
- Report pustules in infants as PUST.
- Report infected decubitus ulcers as DECU.
- Report infected burns as BURN.
- Report breast abscesses or mastitis as BRST.

ST – Soft Tissue
(Necrotizing Fasciitis, Infectious Gangrene, Necrotizing Cellulitis, Infectious Myositis, Lymphadenitis, or Lymphangitis)

DEFINITION: Soft tissue infections must meet at least **ONE** ☐ of the following criteria:

☐ **Criterion 1**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

○ Patient has organisms cultured from **ONE** Δ of the following:

Δ tissue from affected site

Δ drainage from affected site

☐ **Criterion 2**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

○ Patient has purulent drainage at affected site

☐ **Criterion 3**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

○ Patient has **ONE** Δ of the following:

Δ abscess seen during **ONE** ☐ of the following:

☐ surgical operation

☐ histopathologic examination

Δ other evidence of infection of affected site seen during **ONE** ☐ of the following:

☐ surgical operation

☐ histopathologic examination

☐ **Criterion 4**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient has at least **TWO** Δ of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause:
  - Δ localized pain or tenderness
  - Δ redness
  - Δ swelling
  - Δ heat

AND

- Patient has at least **ONE** Δ of the following:
  - Δ organisms cultured from blood
  - Δ positive antigen test performed on **ONE** ☐ of the following:
    - ☐ blood
    - ☐ urine (e.g., *H. influenzae*, *S. pneumoniae*, *N. meningitidis*, Group B *Streptococcus*, *Candida* spp.)
  - Δ choose **ONE** ☐ of the following:
    - ☐ diagnostic single antibody titer (IgM)
    - ☐ 4-fold increase in paired sera (IgG) for pathogen

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Report infected decubitus ulcers as DECU.
- Report infection of deep pelvic tissues as OREP.

DECU – Decubitus Ulcer, Including Both Superficial and Deep Infections

DEFINITION: Decubitus ulcer infections must meet the following criterion:

☐ **Criterion**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient has at least **TWO** Δ of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause:
  - Δ redness
  - Δ tenderness
  - Δ swelling of decubitus wound edges

AND

- Patient has at least **ONE** Δ of the following:
  - Δ organisms cultured and properly collected from **ONE** ☐ of the following:
    - ☐ fluid (see Comments)
    - ☐ tissue (see Comments)
  - Δ organisms cultured from blood

COMMENTS: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Purulent drainage alone is *not* sufficient evidence of an infection.
- Organisms cultured from the surface of a decubitus ulcer are *not* sufficient evidence that the ulcer is infected. A properly collected specimen from a decubitus ulcer involves needle aspiration of fluid or biopsy of tissue from the ulcer margin.

BURN – Burn

DEFINITION: Burn infections must meet at least **ONE** ☐ of the following criteria:

☐ **Criterion 1**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient has **ONE** Δ of the following changes in burn wound appearance or character:
  - Δ rapid eschar separation
  - Δ dark brown, black, or violaceous discoloration of the eschar
  - Δ edema at wound margin

AND

- Patient has histologic examination of burn biopsy shows invasion of organisms into adjacent viable tissue

☐ **Criterion 2**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient has **ONE** Δ of the following changes in burn wound appearance or character:
  - Δ rapid eschar separation
  - Δ dark brown, black, or violaceous discoloration of the eschar
  - Δ edema at wound margin

AND

- Patient has at least **ONE** Δ of the following:
  - Δ organisms cultured from blood in the absence of other identifiable infection
  - Δ at least **ONE** ☐ of the following:
    - ☐ isolation of herpes simplex virus
    - ☐ histologic identification of inclusions by **ONE** ○ of the following:
      - ○ light
      - ○ electron microscopy
    - ☐ visualization of viral particles by electron microscopy in **ONE** ○ of the following:
      - ○ biopsies
      - ○ lesion scrapings

☐ **Criterion 3**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient with a burn has at least **TWO** Δ of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause:
  - Δ fever (>38˚C)
  - Δ hypothermia (<36˚C)
  - Δ hypotension
  - Δ oliguria (<20 cc/hr)
  - Δ hyperglycemia at previously tolerated level of dietary carbohydrate
  - Δ mental confusion

AND

- Patient has at least **ONE** Δ of the following:
  - Δ histologic examination of burn biopsy shows invasion of organisms into adjacent viable tissue
  - Δ organisms cultured from blood
  - Δ at least **ONE** ☐ of the following:
    - ☐ isolation of herpes simplex virus
    - ☐ histologic identification of inclusions by **ONE** ○ of the following:
      - ○ light microscopy

- electron microscopy

- visualization of viral particles by electron microscopy in ONE of the following:
  - biopsies
  - lesion scrapings

COMMENTS: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Purulence alone at the burn wound site is *not* adequate for the diagnosis of burn infection; such purulence may reflect incomplete wound care.
- Fever alone in a burn patient is *not* adequate for the diagnosis of a burn infection because fever may be the result of tissue trauma or the patient may have an infection at another site.
- Surgeons in Regional Burn Centers who take care of burn patients exclusively may require Criterion 1 for diagnosis of burn infection.
- Hospitals with Regional Burn Centers may further divide burn infections into the following: burn wound site, burn graft site, burn donor site, burn donor site-cadaver; NHSN, however, will code all of these as BURN.

BRST – Breast Abscess or Mastitis

DEFINITION: A breast abscess or mastitis must meet at least **ONE** of the following criteria:

Criterion 1: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient has a positive culture of **ONE** of the following:
  - affected breast tissue
  - fluid obtained by **ONE** of the following:
    - incision and drainage
    - needle aspiration

Criterion 2: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient has a **ONE** of the following:
  - breast abscess seen during **ONE** of the following:
    - surgical operation
    - histopathologic examination
  - other evidence of infection seen during **ONE** of the following:
    - surgical operation
    - histopathologic examination

☐ **Criterion 3**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient has **BOTH** Δ of the following:
  - Δ fever (>38˚C)
  - Δ local inflammation of the breast

AND

- physician diagnosis of breast abscess

COMMENT: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Breast abscesses occur most frequently after childbirth. Those that occur within 7 days after childbirth should be considered health care associated.

UMB – Omphalitis

DEFINITION: Omphalitis in a newborn (≤30 days old) must meet at least **ONE** ☐ of the following criteria:

☐ **Criterion 1**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient has **ONE** Δ of the following:
  - Δ erythema
  - Δ serous drainage from umbilicus

AND

- Patient has at least **ONE** Δ of the following:
  - Δ organisms cultured from **ONE** ☐ of the following:
    - ☐ drainage
    - ☐ needle aspirate
  - Δ organisms cultured from blood

☐ **Criterion 2**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Patient has **BOTH** Δ of the following:
  - Δ erythema at the umbilicus
  - Δ purulence at the umbilicus

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Report infection of the umbilical artery or vein related to umbilical catheterization as VASC if there is no accompanying blood culture or a blood culture is negative.
- Report as health care associated if infection occurs in a newborn within 7 days of hospital discharge.

PUST – Infant Pustulosis

DEFINITION: Pustulosis in an infant (≤1 year old) must meet at least **ONE** ☐ of the following criteria:

☐ **Criterion 1**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- infant has 1 or more pustules

AND

- Physician diagnosis of skin infection

☐ **Criterion 2**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Infant has 1 or more pustules

AND

- Physician institutes appropriate antimicrobial therapy

REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Do *not* report erythema toxicum and noninfectious causes of pustulosis.
- Report as health care associated if pustulosis occurs in an infant within 7 days of hospital discharge.

CIRC – Newborn Circumcision

DEFINITION: Circumcision infection in a newborn (≤30 days old) must meet at least **ONE** ☐ of the following criteria:

☐ **Criterion 1**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Newborn has purulent drainage from circumcision site

☐ **Criterion 2**: ***(Last updated June, 2008)***

- Newborn has at least **ONE** Δ of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause at circumcision site:
  - Δ erythema
  - Δ swelling
  - Δ tenderness

AND

- Newborn has pathogen cultured from circumcision site

Criterion 3: *(Last updated June, 2008)*

- Newborn has at least **ONE** Δ of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause at circumcision site:
  - Δ erythema
  - Δ swelling
  - Δ tenderness

AND

- Newborn has skin contaminant cultured from circumcision site

> **NOTE:** if organisms are normal skin flora, they must be a pure culture.
> Examples of normal skin flora include diphtheroids [*Corynebacterium* spp.], *Bacillus* [not *B. anthracis*] spp., *Propionibacterium* spp., coagulase-negative staphylococci [including *S. epidermidis*], viridans group streptococci, *Aerococcus* spp., *Micrococcus* spp.

AND

- Physician diagnosis of infection or physician institutes appropriate therapy