

**SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTION (SST)****BRST – Breast Abscess or Mastitis**

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

**☐ Criterion 1:** *(Last updated January 1, 2013)*

- Patient has a positive culture of **ONE** ☐ of the following:
  - ☐ affected breast tissue obtained by invasive procedure
  - ☐ fluid obtained by invasive procedure

**☐ Criterion 2:** *(Last updated January 1, 2013)*

- Patient has a **ONE** ☐ of the following:
  - ☐ breast abscess seen during **ONE** ☐ of the following:
    - ☐ invasive procedure
    - ☐ histopathologic examination
  - ☐ other evidence of infection seen during **ONE** ☐ of the following:
    - ☐ invasive procedure
    - ☐ histopathologic examination

**☐ Criterion 3:** *(Last updated January 1, 2013)*

- Patient has **BOTH** ☐ of the following:
    - ☐ fever (>38°C)
    - ☐ local inflammation of the breast
- AND**
- Patient has a physician diagnosis of breast abscess

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**BURN – Burn**

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

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

- Patient has **ONE** ☐ of the following changes in burn wound appearance or character:
    - ☐ rapid eschar separation
    - ☐ dark brown, black, or violaceous discoloration of the eschar
    - ☐ 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**  $\Delta$  of the following changes in burn wound appearance or character:
  - $\Delta$  rapid eschar separation
  - $\Delta$  dark brown, black, or violaceous discoloration of the eschar
  - $\Delta$  edema at wound margin
- AND**
- Patient has at least **ONE**  $\Delta$  of the following:
  - $\Delta$  organisms cultured from blood in the absence of other identifiable infection
  - $\Delta$  at least **ONE**  $\square$  of the following:
    - $\square$  isolation of herpes simplex virus
    - $\square$  histologic identification of inclusions by **ONE**  $\circ$  of the following:
      - $\circ$  light microscopy
      - $\circ$  electron microscopy
    - $\square$  visualization of viral particles by electron microscopy in **ONE**  $\circ$  of the following:
      - $\circ$  biopsies
      - $\circ$  lesion scrapings

**Criterion 3:** *(Last updated January 1, 2013)*

- Patient with a burn has at least **TWO**  $\Delta$  of the following signs or symptoms: (*\* with no other recognized cause*)
  - $\Delta$  fever ( $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
  - $\Delta$  hypothermia ( $<36^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
  - $\Delta$  hypotension\*
  - $\Delta$  oliguria ( $<20$  cc/hr.)\*
  - $\Delta$  hyperglycemia at previously tolerated level of dietary carbohydrate\*
  - $\Delta$  mental confusion\*
- AND**
- Patient has at least **ONE**  $\Delta$  of the following:
  - $\Delta$  histologic examination of burn biopsy shows invasion of organisms into adjacent viable tissue
  - $\Delta$  organisms cultured from blood

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△ 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.

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**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** △ of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause at circumcision site:


- △ erythema
- △ swelling
- △ tenderness




**AND**

- Newborn has a pathogen cultured from circumcision site

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

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

-  erythema
-  swelling
-  tenderness

**AND**

- Newborn has a skin contaminant cultured from circumcision site

**Note:** Examples skin contaminants 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**




- Newborn has a physician diagnosis of infection or physician institutes appropriate therapy

**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**  of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause:

-  redness
-  tenderness
-  swelling of decubitus wound edges

**AND**

- Patient has at least **ONE**  of the following:

-  organisms cultured and properly collected from **ONE**  of the following:
  -  fluid (see Comments)
  -  tissue (see Comments)
-  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.

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## PUST – Infant Pustulosis

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

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

- ☐ Infant has 1 or more pustules

**AND**

- ☐ Infant has a physician diagnosis of skin infection

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

- ☐ Infant has 1 or more pustules

**AND**

- ☐ Infant's physician institutes appropriate antimicrobial therapy

**REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS:** (Last updated January 1, 2013)

- Do *not* report erythema toxicum and noninfectious causes of pustulosis.

## 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** ☐ of the following:

- ☐ purulent drainage

- ☐ pustules

- ☐ vesicles

- ☐ boils

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

- ☐ Patient has at least **TWO** ☐ of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause:

- ☐ pain or tenderness

- ☐ localized swelling

- ☐ redness

- ☐ heat

**AND**

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○ Patient has at least **ONE** △ of the following:

△ organisms cultured from **ONE** □ of the following:

- aspirate from affected site
- drainage from affected site

**Note:** 1. If organisms are normal skin flora, they must be a pure culture.  
2. Examples skin contaminants include diphtheroids [*Corynebacterium* spp.], *Bacillus* [not *B. anthracis*] spp., *Propionibacterium* spp., coagulase-negative staphylococci [including *S. epidermidis*], viridans group streptococci, *Aerococcus* spp., *Micrococcus* spp.

△ organisms cultured from blood

△ positive laboratory test (e.g. antigen tests for herpes simplex, varicella zoster, *H. influenzae*, *N. meningitidis*) performed on **ONE** □ of the following:

- infected tissue
- blood

△ multinucleated giant cells seen on microscopic examination of affected tissue

△ choose **ONE** □ of the following:

- diagnostic single antibody titer (IgM) for pathogen
- 4-fold increase in paired sera (IgG) for pathogen

### **REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS:** (Last updated January 1, 2013)

- 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.
- Even if there are clinical signs or symptoms of localized infection at a vascular access site, but no other infection can be found, the infection is considered a primary BSI.

### 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** △ of the following:

- △ tissue from affected site
- △ drainage from affected site



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

- Patient has purulent drainage at affected site

### **Criterion 3:** (Last updated January 1, 2013)

- Patient has **ONE** **△** of the following:

- △** abscess of affected site seen during **ONE** **□** of the following:

- invasive procedure
- histopathologic examination

- △** other evidence of infection of affected site seen during **ONE** **□** of the following:

- invasive procedure
- histopathologic examination

### **Criterion 4:** (Last updated January 1, 2013)

- Patient has at least **TWO** **△** of the following signs or symptoms with no other recognized cause:

- △** localized pain or tenderness
- △** redness
- △** swelling
- △** heat

**AND**

- Patient has at least **ONE** **△** of the following:

- △** organisms cultured from blood

- △** positive laboratory test (e.g., antigen tests for *H. influenzae*, *S. pneumoniae*, *N. meningitidis*, Group B *Streptococcus*, *Candida* spp.) performed on **ONE** **□** of the following:

- blood
- urine

- △** choose **ONE** **□** of the following:

- diagnostic single antibody titer (IgM) for pathogen
- 4-fold increase in paired sera (IgG) for pathogen

### **REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS:** (Last updated January 1, 2013)

- Report infected decubitus ulcers as DECU.
- Report infection of deep pelvic tissues as OREP.
- Even if there are clinical signs or symptoms of localized infection at a vascular access site, but no other infection can be found, the infection is considered a primary BSI.

## UMB – Omphalitis

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

**☐ Criterion 1:** (Last updated January 1, 2013)

- ☐ Patient has at least **ONE** ☐ of the following:

- ☐ erythema

- ☐ serous drainage from umbilicus

**AND**

- ☐ Patient has at least **ONE** ☐ of the following:

- ☐ organisms cultured from **ONE** ☐ of the following:

- ☐ drainage

- ☐ needle aspirate

- ☐ organisms cultured from blood

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

- ☐ Patient has **BOTH** ☐ of the following:

- ☐ erythema at the umbilicus

- ☐ purulence at the umbilicus

**REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS:** (Last updated January 1, 2013)

- 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.