Section C: Cognitive Patterns

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Acronyms in This Presentation

- BIMS – Brief Interview for Mental Status
- CMS – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- IRF-PAI – Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility-Patient Assessment Instrument
Objectives

• Describe the intent of Section C: Cognitive Patterns.
• Apply coding instructions to accurately code practice scenarios.
• Demonstrate application of the Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS) with a partner.
Section C: Items

• Section C is assessed on admission and includes the following items:
  − **C0100**, Should Brief Interview for Mental Status Be Conducted?
  − **C0200–C0500**, Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS).
  − **C0600**, Should the Staff Assessment for Mental Status be Conducted?
  − **C0900**, Memory/Recall Ability.
Section C: Intent

• The items in Section C are intended to determine the patient’s attention, orientation, and ability to register and recall new information.
Section C: Rationale

- A structured cognitive test (interview) is more accurate and reliable than observation alone for evaluating cognitive performance.
  - Prevents patient mislabeling based on appearance or assumed diagnosis.
  - Efficiently provides insight into the patient’s current condition that will enhance quality of care.
  - Assists in identifying needed supports.
C0100

Should Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS) Be Conducted?
C0100 Item Rationale

- Identifies if the interview will be attempted.
- The BIMS is a structured cognitive interview; most patients are able to attempt the interview.

C0100. Should Brief Interview for Mental Status (C0200-C0500) be Conducted? (3-day assessment period)
Attempt to conduct interview with all patients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enter Code</th>
<th>0. No (patient is rarely/never understood)</th>
<th>1. Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skip to C0900, Memory/Recall Ability</td>
<td>Continue to C0200, Repetition of Three Words</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C0100 Steps for Assessment

1. Determine if the patient is rarely/never understood verbally or in writing.
   - If rarely/never understood, skip to C0900, Memory/Recall Ability.

2. Determine if the patient needs or wants an interpreter. If so, complete the interview with an interpreter.

   • The BIMS should be attempted with all patients.

   • It only needs to be conducted once during the 3-day assessment period.
C0100 Coding Instructions

• Record whether the cognitive interview should be attempted with the patient.
• Complete once during the 3-day assessment period.

0. **No** (patient is rarely/never understood)  ►  **Skip to C0900, Memory/Recall Ability**
1. **Yes**  ►  **Continue to C0200, Repetition of Three Words**

C0100. Should Brief Interview for Mental Status (C0200-C0500) be Conducted? (3-day assessment period)
Attempt to conduct interview with all patients.

Enter Code

0. **No** (patient is rarely/never understood)  ►  **Skip to C0900, Memory/Recall Ability**
1. **Yes**  ►  **Continue to C0200, Repetition of Three Words**
C0100 Coding Tips

- If it is not possible for a needed interpreter to participate on the day of the interview, code C0100=0 to indicate interview was not attempted.
  - Complete C0900, Staff Assessment for Mental Status, instead.
  - Includes patients who use American Sign Language.
C0200–C0500

Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS)
C0200–C0500 Item Rationale

- Testing of cognitive function decreases the chance of incorrect labeling of cognitive ability and improves detection of delirium.
  - Cognitively intact patients may appear to be cognitively impaired because of a language barrier, hearing impairment, or lack of social interaction.
  - Some patients may appear to be more cognitively intact than they actually are.
  - Misdiagnosis of cognitive impairment may result in appropriate communication, worthwhile activities, and therapies not being offered.
Structure of the BIMS

• Consists of three components:
  – C0200. Repetition of Three Words.
  – C0300. Temporal Orientation (orientation to year, month, and day).
  – C0400. Recall.
• Results are compiled into a Summary Score (C0500).
Basic Interview Instructions for the BIMS

1. Interview any patient not screened out by item C0100.
2. Conduct the interview in a private setting.
3. Be sure the patient can hear you. Minimize background noise.
4. Sit so that the patient can see your face.
5. Give an introduction before starting the interview.
6. If the patient expresses concern that you are testing his or her memory, a possible response might be:
   - “We ask these questions of everyone so we can make sure that our care will meet your needs.”

7. Directly ask the patient each item in C0200–C0400 in one sitting and in the order provided.

8. If the patient chooses not to answer a particular item, or provides nonsensical responses, accept his or her refusal and move on to the next questions.
   - Code refusals as incorrect or could not recall.
Stopping the Interview

- Stop the interview if necessary.
- Stop the interview after completing C0300C, Day of the Week if:
  - All responses nonsensical, OR
  - No verbal or written response to any of the questions up to this point, OR
  - No verbal or written response to some questions and nonsensical responses to other questions.
Stopping the Interview (cont.)

If the interview is stopped, do the following:

1. **Code “–” (dash)** in C0400A, C0400B, and C0400C.
2. **Code 99** in the summary score in C0500.
3. **Code 1, yes** in C0600, Should the Staff Assessment for Mental Status (C0900) be Conducted?
4. Complete the Staff Assessment for Mental Status (C0900).
The BIMS in Writing

• If the patient’s primary method of communication is in written format, the BIMS can be administered in writing.

• The administration of the BIMS in writing should be limited to this circumstance.
C0200–C0500 Coding Tips

• If a staff member is unable to articulate or pronounce any of the cognitive interview items clearly, for any reason (e.g., accent or speech impairment), have a different staff member conduct the BIMS.
• Nonsensical responses should be coded as zero.

DEFINITION:
NONSENSICAL RESPONSE
Any response that is unrelated, incomprehensible, or incoherent; it is not informative with respect to the item being rated.
C0200–C0400: Incorrect and Nonsensical Responses Example 1

• Interviewer asks patient to state the year.
• The patient replies that it is 1935.
• This answer is incorrect but related to the question.

**Coding:** This answer is coded 0, **incorrect**, but would NOT be considered a nonsensical response.

**Rationale:** The answer is wrong, but it is logical and relates to the question.
C0200–C0400: Incorrect and Nonsensical Responses Example 2

- Interviewer asks patient to state the year.
- The patient says, “Oh what difference does the year make when you are as old as I am?”
- The interviewer asks the patient to try to name the year, and the patient shrugs.

**Coding:** This answer is coded 0, **incorrect**, but would NOT be considered a nonsensical response.

**Rationale:** The answer is wrong because refusal is considered a wrong answer, but the patient’s comment is logical and clearly relates to the question.
C0200–C0400: Incorrect and Nonsensical Responses Example 3

- Interviewer asks the patient to name the day of the week.
- Patient answers, “Sylvia, she’s my daughter.”

**Coding:** The answer is coded 0, **incorrect**; the response is illogical and nonsensical.

**Rationale:** The answer is wrong, and the patient’s comment clearly does not relate to the question. It is nonsensical.
C0200

Repetition of Three Words
C0200 Item Rationale

• This item assesses the patient’s ability to repeat and recall three words:
  – Sock, Blue, Bed.
• The inability to repeat three words on first attempt may indicate:
  – Memory impairment.
  – Hearing impairment.
  – Language barrier.
  – Inattention that may be a sign of delirium or another health issue.
C0200 Steps for Assessment

1. Ask the question exactly as written.
   - “I am going to say three words for you to remember. Please repeat the words after I have said all three. The words are: sock, blue, and bed. Now tell me the three words.”
   - Use the words and related category cues as indicated.
   - Interpreters should use equivalent words and similar, relevant prompts for category cues.

2. Immediately after presenting the three words, ask the patient to repeat them.
C0200 Steps for Assessment (cont. 1)

3. If the patient correctly repeats all three words on the first attempt:
   - Reinforce by repeating the words with category cues.
     - This reinforcement is essential to evaluate the patient’s ability to recall later in the interview.
   - Code the response.
   - Move on to the next interview question (C0300).
4. If the patient recalled two or fewer words on the first attempt:
   − Code the item based on the patient’s recall on the first attempt.
   − Make a second attempt prompting the patient by using category cues.

5. If the patient does not recall all of the words on the second attempt:
   − Make a third attempt.
   − Repeat the words and category cues one more time.
6. If the patient does not repeat all three words after three attempts:
   − Reassess ability to hear.
   − If the patient can hear, move on to the next question.
   − If the patient is unable to hear, attempt to maximize hearing (alter environment, use hearing amplifier) before proceeding.
Category Cue

• A phrase that puts a word in context.
  − Helps prompt patient’s recall ability.
  − Stimulates learning.
  − Fosters memory even among patients able to repeat the words immediately.

• Cues for C0200 are:
  − For sock: something to wear.
  − For blue: a color.
  − For bed: a piece of furniture.
C0200 Assessment Guidelines

• Words may be recalled in any order and in any context.
  − Repeating words in a sentence counts as repeating the words.
• Score the number of words repeated on the **first attempt only**.
  − Do not score the number of repeated words on the second or third attempt.
  − Do not record the number of attempts that the patient needed to complete.
• If the interviewer cannot say words clearly, have another staff member conduct the interview.
• The BIMS may be conducted in writing, in limited circumstances.
C0200 Coding Instructions

- Record the maximum number of words that the patient correctly repeated on the first attempt only.

Number of words repeated
3. Three
2. Two
1. One
0. None

C0200. Repetition of Three Words

Ask patient: “I am going to say three words for you to remember. Please repeat the words after I have said all three. The words are: sock, blue and bed. Now tell me the three words.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enter Code</th>
<th>Number of words repeated after first attempt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0. None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After the patient’s first attempt, repeat the words using cues (“sock, something to wear; blue, a color; bed, a piece of furniture”). You may repeat the words up to two more times.
• **Interviewer:** “The words are sock, blue, and bed. Now please tell me the three words.”

• **Patient:** “Bed, sock, and blue.”

• **Interviewer:** Repeats the three words with category cues by saying, “That’s right, the words are sock, something to wear; blue, a color; and bed, a piece of furniture.”
How would you code C0200, Number of words repeated by patient after first attempt?

A. Code 0, None.
B. Code 1, One.
C. Code 2, Two.
D. Code 3, Three.
C0200 Practice Coding Scenario 2

• **Interviewer:** “The words are sock, blue, and bed. Now please tell me the three words.”

• **Patient:** “Sock, bed, black.”

• **Interviewer:** Repeats the three words plus the category cues, “Let me say the three words again. They are sock, something to wear; blue, a color; and bed, a piece of furniture. Now tell me the three words.”

• **Patient:** “Oh yes, that’s right, sock, blue, bed.”
How would you code C0200, Number of words repeated by patient after first attempt?

A. Code 0, None.
B. Code 1, One.
C. Code 2, Two.
D. Code 3, Three.
C0200 Practice Coding Scenario 3

- **Interviewer:** “The words are sock, blue, and bed. Now please tell me the three words.”
- **Patient:** “Blue socks belong in the dresser.”
- **Interviewer:** Repeats the three words plus the category cues.
How would you code C0200, Number of words repeated by patient after first attempt?

A. Code 0, None.
B. Code 1, One.
C. Code 2, Two.
D. Code 3, Three.
Temporal Orientation: Year, Month, Day
C0300 Definition: Temporal Orientation

- In general, the ability to place oneself in correct time. For the BIMS, it is the ability to indicate the correct date in current surroundings.
C0300 Steps for Assessment

1. Ask the patient each of the three questions separately.
   - C0300A: Current year.
   - C0300B: Current month.
   - C0300C: Day of the week.
2. Allow up to 30 seconds for a response to each question.
3. Do not provide clues.
4. If patients specifically ask for clues, respond by saying that you need to know if they can answer without any assistance.
C0300A Coding: Year

- Assess ability to report the correct year.
- **Code 0** if the patient does not answer.

**C0300. Temporal Orientation** (orientation to year, month, and day)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enter Code</th>
<th>Ask patient: “Please tell me what year it is right now.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>A. Able to report correct year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. <strong>Correct</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. <strong>Missed by 1 year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. <strong>Missed by 2 - 5 years</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0. <strong>Missed by &gt; 5 years or no answer</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enter Code</th>
<th>Ask patient: “What month are we in right now?”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>B. Able to report correct month</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. <strong>Accurate within 5 days</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. <strong>Missed by 6 days to 1 month</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0. <strong>Missed by &gt; 1 month or no answer</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enter Code</th>
<th>Ask patient: “What day of the week is today?”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>C. Able to report correct day of the week</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. <strong>Correct</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0. <strong>Incorrect or no answer</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ask patient: “Please tell me what year it is right now.”

**A. Able to report correct year**

- 3. **Correct**
- 2. **Missed by 1 year**
- 1. **Missed by 2 - 5 years**
- 0. **Missed by > 5 years or no answer**
• Date of interview is August 1, 2019.
  - **Interviewer:** “Please tell me what year it is right now?”
  - **Patient:** “19.”
  - **Interviewer:** “Can you tell me the full year?”
  - **Patient:** “19.”
  - **Interviewer:** “Can you tell me the full year, for example, nineteen-eighty-two.”
  - **Patient:** “2019.”
How would you code C0300A?

A. Code 3, Correct.
B. Code 2, Missed by 1 year.
C. Code 1, Missed by 2–5 years.
D. Code 0, Missed by >5 years or no answer.
C0300B Coding: Month

- Assess ability to report the correct month.
- Count the current day as day 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C0300. Temporal Orientation (orientation to year, month, and day)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enter Code</strong> 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Able to report correct year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Correct</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Missed by 1 year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Missed by 2 - 5 years</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>0. <strong>Missed by &gt; 5 years or no answer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ask patient:</strong> “Please tell me what year it is right now.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. Able to report correct month</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Accurate within 5 days</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Missed by 6 days to 1 month</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0. <strong>Missed by &gt; 1 month or no answer</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enter Code</strong> 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C. Able to report correct day of the week</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Correct</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0. <strong>Incorrect or no answer</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Ask patient:** “What month are we in right now?”

**B. Able to report correct month**
- 2. **Accurate within 5 days**
  - 1. **Missed by 6 days to 1 month**
  - 0. **Missed by > 1 month or no answer**
C0300B Coding Tips

• In most instances, it will be immediately obvious which code to select.
• If you are unsure whether the date given is within 5 days, record the patient’s response on a piece of paper. This allows you to verify the date before selecting the coding response to ensure accuracy.
**C0300B Practice Coding Scenario 5**

- Date of interview is June 2, 2019.
- The patient states that it is May.

### C0300. Temporal Orientation (orientation to year, month, and day)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enter Code</th>
<th>Ask patient: “Please tell me what year it is right now.”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>A. Able to report correct year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Correct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Missed by 1 year</td>
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<td>1. Missed by 2 - 5 years</td>
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<tr>
<th>Enter Code</th>
<th>Ask patient: “What month are we in right now?”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>B. Able to report correct month</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Accurate within 5 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Missed by 6 days to 1 month</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enter Code</th>
<th>Ask patient: “What day of the week is today?”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>C. Able to report correct day of the week</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Correct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0. Incorrect or no answer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*Ask patient: “What month are we in right now?”*

**B. Able to report correct month**

- 2. Accurate within 5 days
- 1. Missed by 6 days to 1 month
- 0. Missed by > 1 month or no answer
How would you code C0300B?

A. Code 2, Accurate within 5 days.
B. Code 1, Missed by 6 days to 1 month.
C. Code 0, Missed by >1 month or no answer.
C0300C Coding: Day

- Assess the patient’s ability to report the correct day of the week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C0300. Temporal Orientation (orientation to year, month, and day)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enter Code</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask patient: “Please tell me what year it is right now.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Able to report correct year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Correct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Missed by 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td><strong>Enter Code</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Able to report correct month</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Enter Code</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask patient: “What day of the week is today?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Able to report correct day of the week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Correct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Incorrect or no answer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ask patient: “What day of the week is today?”
C. Able to report correct day of the week
1. Correct
0. Incorrect or no answer
C0300C Practice Coding Scenario 6

- Date of interview is Thursday, August 15, 2019.
- The patient states that it is “Tuesday.”

**C0300. Temporal Orientation** (orientation to year, month, and day)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enter Code</th>
<th>Ask patient: “What day of the week is today?”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C. Able to report correct day of the week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Correct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0. Incorrect or no answer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How would you code C0300C?

A. Code 1, correct.
B. Code 0, incorrect, or no answer.
Recall
C0400 Steps for Assessment

1. Ask the patient to repeat the words from the earlier question.
   - Read question **exactly** as it appears on the IRF-PAI.
2. Allow up to 5 seconds for spontaneous recall of each word.
3. For any word not correctly recalled after 5 seconds, provide a category cue.
4. Category cues should be used only after the patient is unable to recall one or more of the three words.
5. Allow up to 5 seconds after category cueing for each missed word to be recalled.
C0400 Coding Instructions

- **Code 2, Yes, no cue required:**
  - Correctly remembers the word spontaneously without cueing.

- **Code 1, Yes, after cueing:**
  - Requires the category cue to remember the word.

- **Code 0, No, could not recall:**
  - Cannot recall the word even after cueing.
  - Responds with a nonsensical answer.
  - Chooses not to answer the item.
C0400 Coding Tips

• If on the first try (without cueing), the patient names multiple items in a category, one of which is correct, they should be coded as **correct** for that item.
  - Code 2, Yes, no cue required.

• If the interviewer gives the patient a cue and the patient then names multiple items in that category, code as **could not recall**, even if the correct item was in the list.
  - Code 0, No, could not recall.
C0400 Practice Coding Scenario 7

The patient is asked to recall the three words that were initially presented.

- **Patient**: “Socks, shoes, and bed.”
- **Interviewer**: “One word was a color.”
- **Patient**: “Oh, the shoes were blue.”
# C0400 Practice Coding Scenario 7 (cont. 1)

**How would you code C0400?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C0400. Recall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enter Code</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ask patient:</strong> “Let’s go back to an earlier question. What were those three words that I asked you to repeat?” If unable to remember a word, give cue (something to wear; a color; a piece of furniture) for that word.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**A. Able to recall “sock”**

- 2. **Yes, no cue required**
- 1. **Yes, after cueing** (“something to wear”)
- 0. **No** - could not recall

**B. Able to recall “blue”**

- 2. **Yes, no cue required**
- 1. **Yes, after cueing** (“a color”)
- 0. **No** - could not recall

**C. Able to recall “bed”**

- 2. **Yes, no cue required**
- 1. **Yes, after cueing** (“a piece of furniture”)
- 0. **No** - could not recall
The patient is asked to recall the three words.

- **Patient:** “I don’t remember.”
- **Interviewer:** “One word was something to wear.”
- **Patient:** “Clothes.”
- **Interviewer:** “OK, one word was a color.”
- **Patient:** “Blue.”
- **Interviewer:** “OK, the last word was a piece of furniture.”
- **Patient:** “Couch.”
A. All terms are coded 0, No, could not recall, because the patient initially stated she could not remember.

B. All terms are coded 1, Yes, after cueing, because the patient required cueing to attempt recall for all of the terms.

C. All terms are coded 1, Yes, after cueing, because the patient remembered at least one term after cueing.

D. Code “sock” and “bed” as 0, No, could not recall. Code “blue” as 1, Yes, after cueing.
C0500

BIMS Summary Score
C0500 Item Rationale

• The BIMS is a brief screener that aids in detecting cognitive impairment.
  • The total score:
    − Decreases the chance of incorrect labeling of cognitive ability.
    − Improves detection of delirium.
    − Provides staff with a more reliable estimate of patient function.
    − Allows staff interactions with patients that are based on more accurate impressions about patient ability.
C0500 Steps for Assessment

After completing C0200–C0400:

- Add up the values for all BIMS questions.
- Lowest possible summary score is 00.
- Maximum possible summary score is 15.

**C0500. BIMS Summary Score**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enter Score</th>
<th><strong>Add scores</strong> for questions C0200-C0400 and fill in total score (00-15)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enter 99 if the patient was unable to complete the interview</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C0500 Assessment Guidelines

- Do not add up the total score while you are interviewing the patient.
- Focus your full attention on the interview.
- Apply the guidelines for determining if the interview is complete or incomplete.
- Total score reflects cognitive status.
  - 13–15 Cognitively Intact.
  - 08–12 Moderate Impairment.
  - 00–07 Severe Impairment.
• Code the total score as a two-digit number.
• Include leading zero (0) for scores less than 10.
• The score will range from 00 to 15.
• **Code 99** if unable to complete the interview.
• A zero score (00) does not mean the interview was incomplete.
• Occasionally, a patient can communicate but chooses not to participate in the BIMS and, therefore, does not attempt any of the items in the section.

• This would be considered an incomplete interview; enter code 99 for C0500, Summary Score, and complete the staff assessment of mental status.
C0500 Practice Coding Scenario 9

The patient’s scores on items C0200–C0400C are listed below. How would you code C0500, BIMS Summary Score?

• C0200 (repetition)  3
• C0300A (year)  2
• C0300B (month)  2
• C0300C (day)  1
• C0400A (recall “sock”)  2
• C0400B (recall “blue”)  2
• C0400C (recall “bed”)  0
How would you code C0500, BIMS Summary Score?

A. Enter 10.
B. Enter 12.
C. Enter 13.
D. Enter 00.
BIMS Completion Guidelines

• For the BIMS to be considered a completed interview:
  – Patient has to attempt to answer at least four of the questions in C0200 through C0400C.
  – The answers have to be relevant.
  – To be relevant, a response **only** has to be **related** to the question (logical).
  – Responses do **not** have to be correct.

• For item C0500:
  – A score of zero (00) means the answers were relevant/logical but incorrect.
  – A score of zero (00) does not mean the BIMS is incomplete.
What Constitutes an Incomplete Interview?

• The patient chooses not to participate in the BIMS.
• Four or more items were coded 0 because the patient chose not to answer or gave a nonsensical response.
• If any of the BIMS items is coded with a “-” (dash).

To be incomplete, a patient had to choose not to answer or give completely unrelated, nonsensical responses to four or more items.
Incomplete Interview Coding Instructions

- Conduct C0200 and C0300 with all patients attempting the interview.
- Stop the interview after completing C0300C, Day of the Week if:
  - Responses to C0300A, C0300B, and C0300C have been nonsensical, OR
  - No verbal or written response to any of the questions up to this point, OR
  - No verbal or written response to some questions and nonsensical responses to other questions.
- If the interview is stopped:
  - Enter “-” (dash) in C0400A, C0400B, and C0400C.
  - Code C0500, Summary Score, as 99, unable to complete interview.
- Complete the Staff Assessment for Mental Status.
Should the Staff Assessment for Mental Status Be Conducted?
• Mental status can vary among persons unable to communicate or who do not complete the interview. Therefore:
  − A report of observed behavior is needed for patients unable to complete the BIMS interview.
  − When cognitive impairment is incorrectly diagnosed or missed, appropriate communication techniques, activities, and therapies may not be offered.
C0600 Steps for Assessment

• Review the BIMS Summary Score (C0500).
• Determine if the BIMS was completed successfully or was incomplete.
• A summary score of 99 indicates that the BIMS was incomplete, and the Staff Assessment for Mental Status (C0900) should be conducted.
C0600 Coding Instructions

- Code 0, No.
  - Interview completed.
  - Summary score equals 00–15.

- Code 1, Yes.
  - Interview not completed.
  - Summary score is 99.

0. **No** (patient was able to complete Brief Interview for Mental Status)  ➔ *Skip to GG0100, Prior Functioning: Everyday Activities*

1. **Yes** (patient was unable to complete Brief Interview for Mental Status)  ➔ *Continue to C0900, Memory/Recall Ability*
C0600 Coding Tips

• If a patient is scored 00 on C0500, BIMS Summary Score, then C0900, Memory/Recall Ability, should not be completed.
C0900

Memory/Recall Ability
An observed “memory/recall problem” may indicate:

• Cognitive impairment.
• Need for additional support with reminders to support increased independence.
• Delirium, if this represents a change from the patient’s baseline.
C0900 Steps for Assessment

1. Ask the patient about each item in C0900:
   - “Is it fall, winter, spring, or summer?”
   - “What is the name of this place?”
   - “Will you show me to your room?”

2. Ask the patient to show the way to his or her room.

3. Observe the patient’s ability to find the way.
4. For patients with limited communication skills, ask direct care staff across all shifts and family or significant other about recall ability.

5. Review the medical record.

6. Observe the patient.
   - Staff across all shifts and departments.
   - Others with close contact with the patient.
C0900 Coding Instructions

• Check each item the patient recalls.
• Check Z, None of the above, if patient recalls none of the items listed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C0900. Memory/Recall Ability (3-day assessment period)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check all that the patient was normally able to recall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Current season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Location of own room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Staff names and faces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. That he or she is in a hospital/hospital unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z. None of the above were recalled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Role Play

Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS)
BIMS Role Play Instructions

• Work in pairs at your table.
  – One participant will play the role of the patient, the other will play the role of the BIMS interviewer.
  – Two different patient scripts (1 and 2) have been provided.
• Interviewer role:
  – Administer the BIMS and code patient responses using the Admission Coding Sheet provided.
• Patient Role:
  – Answer the interview questions as directed on your patient script.
  – Avoid revealing the script to your interviewer.
BIMS Role Play Instructions (cont.)

• Switch roles after you complete the first BIMS.
• Use the alternative patient script provided for the second interview.
• We will debrief after approximately 10 minutes to review the correct coding responses.
Role Play

Debrief
Visit the CMS YouTube Channel to view the BIMS video and other videos about interviewing techniques:

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAj3TA5w11Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAj3TA5w11Y).
Summary

- Attempt to complete the BIMS on all patients.
- Follow the instructions in the IRF-PAI manual.
- Only complete Item C0900 Staff Assessment for Mental Status (Memory/Recall Ability) if the patient refuses to answer or gives you nonsensical responses.
Record Your Action Plan Ideas
Questions?

Join at
slido.com
#Econometrica