

of the week - 11.

1. all responses up to this point have been nonsensical (i.e., any response that is unrelated, incomprehensible, or incoherent; not informative with respect to the item being rated), OR
2. there has been no verbal or written response to any of the questions up to this point, OR
3. there has been no verbal or written response to some questions up to this point and for all others, the resident has given a nonsensical response.

C0400C. Relevant answers do not have to be correct but do need to be related to the question that was asked.

C0200–C0500: Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS) (cont.)



- If the interview is stopped, do the following:
 1. Code **(—), dash** in C0400A, C0400B, and C0400C.
 2. Code **99** in the BIMS Summary Score (C0500), and if the assessment being completed is a stand-alone Part A PPS Discharge, continue to C1310. Signs and Symptoms of Delirium. Otherwise, proceed to step 3.
 3. Code **1, yes** in **C0600, Should the Staff Assessment for Mental Status be Conducted?**
 4. Complete the **Staff Assessment for Mental Status**.
- If all responses to C0200, C0300A, C0300B, and C0300C are coded 0 because answers are incorrect, continue interview.
- When staff identify that the resident'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 only this circumstance.**
- See Appendix E for details regarding how to administer the BIMS in writing.
- Code 0 is used to represent three types of responses: incorrect answers (unless the item itself provides an alternative response code), nonsensical responses, and questions the resident chooses not to answer (or "refusals"). Since 0s resulting from these three situations are treated differently when coding the BIMS Summary Score in C0500, the interviewer may find it valuable to track the reason for each 0 response to aid in accurately calculating the summary score.

DEFINITION

NONSENSICAL RESPONSE

Any response that is unrelated, incomprehensible, or incoherent; it is not informative with respect to the item being rated.

Examples of Incorrect and Nonsensical Responses

1. Interviewer asks resident to state the year. The resident 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.
2. Interviewer asks resident to state the year. The resident says, "Oh what difference does the year make when you're as old as I am?" The interviewer asks the resident to try to name the year, and the resident 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 resident's comment is logical and clearly relates to the question.

C0200–C0500: Brief Interview for Mental Status (BIMS) (cont.)



3. Interviewer asks the resident to name the day of the week. Resident answers, “Sylvia, she’s my daughter.” The interviewer asks the resident the question again to confirm the resident is not hearing the question incorrectly, and the resident answers with the same response.

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

Rationale: The answer is wrong, and the resident’s comment clearly does not relate to the question; it is nonsensical.